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VOL. 10: NOV. 1858. NO. 11.

Terms of Subscription.

One Copy One Year	$ 1 00
Six Copies "	5 00
Ten " "	8 00
Thirteen " "	10 00
Twenty " "	15 00

Terms of Advertising.

One Page 1 insertion $12; each subsequent insertion $10
Half " 1 " 7, " " " 6
One square one " 2, and for one year 18

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ARTESIAN WELLS.

A number of our readers have asked for some information on the nature of Artesian Wells, the manner of boring them, &c.,

The mistaken notion prevails to some extent, that water can be made to rise to the surface of the earth at any point, by simply boring deep enough. A correct knowledge of geological science and the laws that govern the flow of water proves this opinion to be fallacious. In some sections of the country springs abound, while in others they are seldom met with. The same law that governs the flow of springs upon the surface of the earth, also governs the flow of water from an Artesian Well, though the water from springs and wells is derived from the loose surface-deposits, or running in veins in the open joints of the rocks, while that from artesian wells is frequently obtained from deposits in lower stratas of the rocks.

It should be remembered that the water of all wells and springs, and all that flows through the soil and among the rocks below the surface of the earth, is derived from the rains; and for a perfect understanding of the matter at the outset, it should also be remembered that water cannot be made to rise to the surface from subterranean streams or reservoirs, unless the streams have their sources at an elevation higher than the mouth of the wells. Artesian Wells are obtained by boring into the earth's crust until subterranean streams or reservoirs are reached; but without some knowledge of the geology of the country, the labor of boring may be fruitless.

Artesian Wells have been so named from the fact that they were first established in Artois, in France. They have since been bored in considerable numbers in Paris and other portions of France and in England, where good water is scarce, and that at the surface of indifferent quality. More recently they have been successfully bored in various portions of South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Illinois, Missouri and other States. In Columbus, Ohio, at the State House, a large amount of money has been expended—the boring having reached to a depth of near two thousand feet, a large part of the distance having been penetrated through the blue lime stone formation, without finding water, and the boring must be continued a considerable distance farther before the sand stone is reached and then it is uncertain whether water can be found.

To gain a proper knowledge of this subject and ascertain why one district will yield water in every boring made to the proper depth, while another will yield none, an examination of their geological character must be entered into.

Surrounding Paris, at considerable distance from the city, there is at the surface, an immense bed of porous, silicious rock, through which water easily percolates and which rests upon strata impervious to water. The strata of this porous bed of rock dip in all directions towards the city, indicating that it passes beneath it. It thus forms a vast basin, having a depth of fifteen hundred or two thousand feet at the centre. This basin is filled by the rocks of the

chalk and tertiary formations, so as to bring the surface of the country to nearly a common level: the outer rim of the basin, however, having a higher elevation than its centre. The chalk formation rests upon the porous silicious rocks, and is impervious to water. The tertiary formation overlies the chalk, and the two together have a thickness of many hundred feet. The rains falling on the outer margin of the basin sink freely into its porous materials, and keeping the strata constantly saturated with water, create a pressure of that fluid toward the centre. These porous rocks may therefore be termed *water bearing*, as an abundant supply of water everywhere pervades their strata, where its evaporation is prevented by the overlaying chalk. By boring through the tertiary and chalk formations into the porous strata, at suitable distances from the margin of the basin, the water is forced up to a height corresponding to that of the source of its supply, and in some places reaching an elevation of thirty feet above the surface. The artesian well in the city of Paris is bored to a depth of 1700 feet, and the water rises to an elevation of 60 feet above the surface and has a temperature of 64° Fahrenheit.

A fact to be remembered here, is that the basin at Paris is every where underlaid by *water bearing* strata, and that water can be obtained by boring into it anywhere, at a suitable distance from its margin.

From what has been said in regard to the geological character of the country in and around Paris, a general idea is easily formed in regard to the nature of these wells, as well as the law which governs the flow of springs, &c. But in the United States where artesian wells have been bored the geological character of the country differs somewhat from that around Paris. Instead of a basin, the strata of rocks form an extended inclined plane, commencing near the base of the Alleghanies and descending towards the Gulf of Mexico. The *water-bearing* formation of this section of country, is a loose sandy deposit. It is overlaid by the chalk and tertiary formations which are known locally, by the name of *rotten stone*. It is an immense deposit of carbonate of lime, existing mostly as pure *marl*, but occasionally including some beds of limestone, and in many places abounding in fossils. It has often a thickness of only a few feet at its northern margin, but increases rapidly in depth southward, until it attains a thickness of near two thousand feet—the increase in some localities being at the rate of thirty feet to the mile. The marl is impervious to water, and none can penetrate down through it, however heavy the rains at the surface; or rise up through it by capillary attraction, whatever may be the extent of the evaporation from the soil above.

The bed of sand which underlies the marl must be of considerable thickness, as it has been penetrated to a depth of 300 feet in some Artesian Wells. It rests upon the older, secondary rocks, which being impervious to water, serves as a flooring to the sand and prevents the water from sinking lower in the earth. This sand bed occupies the surface all around the northern margin of the marl, and the rains descending upon it are readily absorbed. The water thus supplied is arrested in its descent by the flooring before described, and it flows along the inclined plane, amongst the sand, until it passes beneath the great marl bed, from whence there is no escape except by a forward movement. Far down towards the coast where it has gained power by accumulation, the water is found bursting up through the marl in large springs.

Now it must be apparent, that the imprisoned water below, will rise through the marl to the surface from an artificial opening, as readily as it does from the openings created by its own powers or by other natural causes. Accordingly, wherever artesian wells have been bored at proper distances within the marl formation, water has been obtained: but when the attempts have been made at points too near its northern margin, they have either failed or the water does not rise to the surface. In the northern portions of Alabama these wells are bored to the depth of 300 feet or more—the water not reaching nearer than 80 or 90 feet of the surface, whence it is drawn by the windlass. There are others in the river valley, near by, which are 80 or 90 feet lower, in which the water flows at the surface. Further south, where the common level of the country is a hundred feet lower, the artesian wells have the water flowing from their mouths in a constant stream, but owing to the increase in the thickness of the marl in that direction, they have to be sunk to the depth of 500 to 800 feet to reach the water.

In all these wells the water rises to a common level whether it stops at 90 feet below the surface, barely ever flowing at the top of the well, or ascends in tubes prepared to allow it to reach its maximum elevation: this shows clearly that the water has a common origin in a single, broad bed of *water-bearing* sand, which every

where underlies the whole region covered by the rotten lime stone.

It will be seen that the geological conditions of the district described, are identical with that of the Paris basin, in every particular essential to the existence of artesian wells. In both, borings are made through the tertiary and chalk formations into an underlying silicious deposit, which is *water-bearing*, and which is nearly uniform in its thickness and qualities, so as to make it practicable to obtain water anywhere within its limits, excepting near the margins.

The geological character of the country around Columbus, extending through Kentucky and other States, differs materially from that of the countries just described, owing to the immence thickness of *blue lime stone* formation, and its dip eastward, renders successful boring extremely doubtful. A large sum of money has been expended in boring for a supply of water, for railroad purposes between Frankfort and Lexington Ky., but after boring to a great depth without passing through this strata of lime stone, the enterprise has been abandoned as fruitless. The attempt of the Messrs. Dupont, Louisville, has proved more successful, so far as obtaining a supply of water is concerned, after penetrating to a depth of nearly 2100 feet, though the water is so strongly impregnated with mineral substances as not to be adapted to their use.

In Illinois, a number of artesian wells have been bored, affording an abundant supply of pure water, and they are found extremely useful for farm and manufacturing purposes, without descending to any considerable depth. In some portions of the country poorly supplied with natural streams, wells have been bored, and by uniting the streams of several of them, a sufficient supply of water has been obtained from 500 to 800 feet below the surface, to propel water wheels and carry a considerable amount of machinery. There are also many locations in the farming districts, where by boring but a few hundred feet, an abundant supply of water can be obtained not only for the farm stock and domestic uses, but in times of drouth to irrigate the meadows and other growing crops.

Of the mechanical operation of boring for water a description would be of but little value here, as professional workmen should be employed for the purpose. They are, however, bored with a long auger, with a series of joints, which are united by screws, as the work progresses, the whole being raised by simple machinery, and let fall, as in boring rocks by hand; the pulverized rock and sand being drawn out, after removing the auger, with a metallic tube, having a valve in the lower end.

RUST ON OATS.

The very general destruction of the oat crop by rust in many portions of the West, the present season, has caused no little surprise among the farmers, from the fact that this disease has never before been known by them to attack this crop, and is considered by many as something "new under the sun."

Mildew or rust has been regarded as the "plague" of the wheat crop from the earliest recorded account of this grain. It is stated (in Deut. xxviii. 22,) that among the afflictions with which God threatened the Israelites for their disobedience, that he would also lay waste their fields with "blasting and with mildew." And again, (Amos iv. 9,) it is recorded. "I smote you with blasting, and with mildew, and with hail in all the labors of your hands." The fields of the Romans were often laid waste by this epidemic. It formed a subject for the pen of Pliny, and other early writers. The Greeks and Romans considered it as the instrument of vengence, directed by a particular deity. To propitiate this presiding deity a festival was instituted by Numa, as early as 704 years before the birth of Christ. It was celebrated annually on the 25th of April, and comprised sacrifices, races and obsenities. Reddish colored dogs were sacrificed, because the lesser dog-star was then in the heavens, and was considered unpropitious to the corn (wheat). [Pliny's Hist. of plants.]

Ovid who also enters fully into the religious performances of the festival, says that the limbs of sheep and the entrails of a dog were offered as a sacrifice on the occasion.

The Roman cultivators regarded the misty weather which prevails at such times, and is the cause of the rust, as actually clouds of mildew.

Felic Fontena, at Lucca, was the first writer who correctly described this disease in 1767.—Since then it has engrossed the attention of many botanists, and the results of their researches have been to establish it as a distinct species of fungus, though they differ as to the particular genus to which it belongs.

Rust is most frequent and fatal in seasons characterized by a moist atmosphere under an obscured sun, and warm temperature; then the wheat plants mature more slowly, their forces

are expended by an undue degree of moisture, and their fibers become relaxed, circumstances which are found peculiarly favorable to the admission of the sporules or seeds of this fungus, and to their vegetation and rapid development. These peculiarities of weather were particularly prevalent during the past season and just at the period when the oat crop was making its most rapid growth, before the development of the grain.

Whether this blight which has been so destructive to the oat crop is that which is most common to wheat, or whether it is another parasitical fungus which sometimes attacks the wheat leaves and stem, denominated by Decandolle, as the *Uredo rubigo*, and described by him, our observation has not enabled us to determine, and although its attack upon oats may be new to modern farmers, it may not have been so to the ancients, although we do not remember to have seen any recorded account of it, but Theophatus, who wrote his *History of Plants* about 320 years before the Christian era, observes that it occurs more frequently to corn than to pulse, and that in the climate of Greece *barley* was more subject to it than wheat. In view of this fact, and during weather so favorable to its developement as that which occurred just as the oat crop was making a more rapid growth, from prevailing rains and high temperature, than we have ever before witnessed, we can see no reason why the oat crop should not be subject to attacks of the same disease.

The editor of the *Southern Homestead*, who in company with Drs. Briggs and Buchanan of the Medical College, at Nashville, made some examinations of this fungus with the aid of the microscope, attributes the *cause* of the destruction of the oat crop to a living worm, too small to be seen with the naked eye. He states "that a single blade or leaf of the oat sometimes contains hundreds of them. They lie encased in the tissues of the leaf or blade where they have been germinated, beneath the epidermis or their pellicle over the exterior portion of the blade, and as they progress in developement, the skin of the leaf is raised into curious puffy blisters. The growth of the worm subsequently ruptures these and it escapes to feed on the plant.—When first released from their covering they are of a beautiful, clear, red color, almost transparent, but soon begin to change color and form, getting more opaque and dark in appearance until, in the course of transformation, they become a black bug, with legs and wings, when they attack the head or grain of the oats."

We think, on further investigation, our cotemporary will find that the insects he describes are the *effect* and not the *cause* of the rust or blight. The rupture of the numerous sap vessels of the blades and stems of the oats and the flow of the putrid sap that is known to attend this disease is just of that character to invite and sustain the living insect. Nature is ever bountiful in the multiplication of these, in some form, under such circumstances. But to solve the mystery "how this innumerable army of infiniteismal worms originated," we have our own theory, which to us, at least, seems plausible, but to which we shall not allude further at this time.

Since writing the foregoing, we have met with some remarks of Mr. R. Somerville, an English writer who concluded that the rust originates from the attacks of insects introduced with the manure, but the insect he describes is evidently the minute *acarus* (a kind of louse) which is always to be found upon decaying vegetable matter, and is probably the same or similar to that alluded to by the editor of the *Southern Homestead*.

Indentity of the Potato Rot and the Garpe Vine Mildew.

From the first appearance of the potato disease to the present time, it has called forth much theory and wild speculation as to its cause or origin. It is a very common result that where men attempt to establish a new theory, it is an easy matter for them to employ apparent facts to sustain it, which, upon more thorough investigation proves false. Not long since, Mr. Henderson, of Buffalo, N. Y., charged this great malady to an insect, the *Phytocorus*, which preys upon the leaves and stems of the plants. His description of this insect seemed to render it possible that it might have been the wicked agent in this matter, and several papers have endorsed the discovery and have given cuts illustrating the insect, both of the natural size and magnified. But those more familiar with the history of this insect, have informed us that it was known and was generally numerous at a period long anterior to the appearance of the potato rot.

Since the discovery claimed by Mr. Henderson, Mr. Lyman Reed, of Baltimore, assures us that he has discovered the true cause in a small *aphis* or green fly, almost invisible to the naked eye. This insect, Mr. Reed claims, deposits its eggs in the tuber, and during its progress to

maturity the disease is produced, and in order to insure his claim *as one of the great benefactors of his race*, has obtained a patent for his supposed remedy and threatens all mankind with pains and penalties for the violation thereof.

That the potato, like every other species of vegetation, is liable to the depredations of insects, we will not deny, but that either of the insects referred to is the cause of the potato rot, we do not believe.

By the close observer it is ascertained that this disease suddenly makes its appearance, and that the vines are transformed in a few hours from a state of perfect health to a blackened mass of putrid matter. Its appearance is often as sudden and its effects as fatal, as the cholera in the human family, or the disease known by that name in swine. From the slow and gradual development of insects, it is not probable that the effects of their depredations would be so sudden and fatal.

A worthy cotemporary who favors the insect theory and who has furnished his readers with engravings of the insects referred to by Mr. Henderson, is rather severe on that class of "scientific men" who do not seem to concur in the same view. He says:—"Dr. Lindley, in the *London Gardeners' Chronicle*, in three or four lines, scouts the idea that this insect causes the rot, and Dr. Fitch is almost as brief and as equally decided on the same side. Now we are open to conviction on this question and we have very little respect for the *ipsi dixit* of those who have the reputation of being 'scientific men.' They are apt to be deceived and dogmatic, and we are not willing to adopt their opinions without a reason. Science is a poor substitute for brains, and some of the great *professors* in the world are sadly deficient in common sense."

Now, although we are not classed among the "great professors," and we may be deficient in that essential commodity, "common sense," but to our mind, and from long repeated and close observation, we entertain not the shadow of a doubt that the disease referred to, is attributable alone to atmospheric and hygromatic causes, and that the mildew that frequently attacks our grape vines, is produced by the same cause, for we know that it makes its appearance in many places at the same time. In the year 1856 we chanced to be in a certain locality in latitude about 41° north. Up to the 29th day of July the potatoes growing in the vicinity were vigorous and perfectly healthy. On that day the weather changed; the temperature we did not note down, but the sun shone with a peculiar scalding intensity, with an oppressive, confined condition of the atmosphere, not easy to describe, causing an unpleasant, suppressed perspiration from the human system, with a sensation that rendered any exertion peculiarly difficult and unpleasant. Within three days of this period nearly all the potato vines growing in the neighborhood turned black, and on digging the potatoes, they were found diseased, so much so that in some instances they nearly all rotted. In this section the Isabella grape is extensively cultivated, and the day following the occurrence of the weather we have described, the vines of these grapes were discovered to be struck with mildew, and in a few days the leaves withered and died, presenting the appearance of having been scalded or burned. They shortly fell off, and in many instances prevented the ripening of the fruit and the further hardening of the wood. In 1857, on the 30th day of July, there was a return of the scalding, oppressive weather. The day following, an intelligent and observing gentleman, quite extensively engaged in the culture of the grape, discovered a return of the blight upon his vines, and remarked that the farmers would find their potatoes diseased again. This prediction proved true; for in less than a week there was a universal complaint of the "potato rot." The present season, the first discovery of the grape vine blight appeared on the 27th of July, after a day of the same damp, confined, condition of the atmosphere, though less fatal than in the two previous seasons. Since that date there has been a return of two or three days, at different periods of the same weather, with the same effects observable on the grape vines. At the same periods the potato vines growing in the neighborhood were discovered to be diseased, with a corresponding rotting of the tubers. Generally, the effect of this disease upon the grape vine, after the loss of the leaves, is only to prevent the ripening of the wood and the fruit, but the present season, we discovered upon some vines that nearly simultaneously with the attack of mildew upon the leaves, the fruit presented signs of rotting; commencing, generally, on one side of the berry, but in some instances two spots would appear on the same fruit, gradually extending until it covered the whole berry, giving it the appearance of having been roasted—the color gradually becoming more dark until nearly black, when they finally dry up and fall off.

Liebig, and others in Europe, who have

to great waste in other ways. The horse power and threshing machine were a vast improvement upon this slovenly method, but many of the machines now used require the utmost power of watched the development of the potato rot, have intimated that the blight upon the grape vine was produced by the same causes that occasions the potato disease.

In southern Kentucky potatoes have long been planted, to a very considerable extent, for the southern market, and for a time we were at a loss to account for the peculiar exemption from disease in that section, while on lands in other States lying a few degrees north of the Ohio river, it has often proved ruinously fatal; but more recent observations seem to furnish a very conclusive explanation for it, and one that may be of service to those who are not situated too far north to avail themselves of it. As we have stated, the earliest date at which the grape vine and the potato have been attacked by this disease, was on the 27th day of July. At the ordinary time of planting potatoes in Kentucky, the crop at this date is so far advanced towards maturity as not to be effected by the causes that produce the disease, while in those sections of country but a degree or two farther north, the crop is making its most vigorous growth just at the period when that peculiar state of the weather prevails that we have described. As all the early matured potatoes are free from the attacks of this disease, every means should be employed to bring the crop forward at the earliest possible period, and before these atmospheric changes take place that produce it.

There are other species of vegetation that are affected by similar causes. The disease that has annually attacked the sycamore trees in many parts of the country for more than twenty years past in the month of June, and the pear tree blight, which in many instances is as sudden in its appearance and effects as the most violent attacks of the potato disease, though not exactly from the same conditions of the atmosphere, but from similar causes.

The cause of these atmospheric changes and their results upon animal life and health, as well as upon the various forms of vegetation, are matters that are yet veiled in mystery, and whether the light of science is destined ever to solve the problem remains to be seen, and whether an effectual remedy can ever be applied, we regard as a matter of great uncertainty, though probably much may be done in certain cases, by taking advantage of times and seasons of planting, &c., to avert its evils.

MEADOWS AND PASTURE LANDS.

Meadows and pastures are frequently very much injured by allowing cattle and horses to roam over them too long after the growing season has passed. Meadows of clover lands require that some herbage should remain to protect the plants from the frost and the variations of weather during winter. The amounts of the hay and grass crops the following season, is frequently cut short more than half by injudicious and late pasturing. Timothy, in particular, is greatly injured by being eaten off and trampled upon after it has been mown; unlike any other variety of grass, the root is bulbous, and these small bulbs lie near the surface of the earth, and the stubble being eaten off by the stock leaves these exposed to the frost and renders the roots liable to be killed during winter; the trampling under foot also causes great damage. Clover is also liable to serious injury from the same cause. Close eating and the hard packing of the soil by the feet of animals cause the plants to be hauled up by the frost and killed. We have seen entire fields killed in this way, during the freezing and thawing of a few nights in winter. The last growth of clover in the fall should always be allowed to remain untrodden during winter, otherwise the succeeding crop will frequently be cut short one-half or three-fourths. It is well to have the excess of herbage eaten off, particularly if the latter part of the season has been wet, but this should never be continued to the exposure and injury of the growing roots.

It is always best to have the pasture lands upon every farm divided into several lots so that stock can be changed from one to another, allowing each in turn to renew its growth and impart strength and vigor to the roots. The health of the animals also requires that they should be changed, and this change should, if possible, be made as often as every two weeks. Another advantage of a division of pasture is, one kind of stock may be allowed to succeed another in the same field—sheep, cattle, or horses, as the case may require. Cattle continually running over a pasture will often leave some portions uneaten, which becomes dry and distasteful, and which horses would very readily eat; weeds, briars, and other wild growth will frequently be browsed off and expelled by sheep, while the same growth will be refused by other classes of stock.

The scarcity of fencing materials, we know, renders the proper subdivision of farm and

pasture lands often difficult, but some progress towards this desirable end can be made each year, so that in a few years the division may be made complete. In the more favored timbered districts the work is less difficult. This subject has not received as much attention from farmers generally as its importance demands.

NOTES OF TRAVEL.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Oct. 1858.

EDS. VALLEY FARMER:—My readers, I suppose, are at home quietly pursuing their accustomed avocations, while I am whirling over prairies and mountains on the swift wings of steam. A few off-hand sketches of what I am seeing may not be valueless to them. What I have seen of most interest to me relates to farms and farming interests. Cities and towns are everywhere much the same. But the country changes. Farms are ever various. The farm on the prairie is a very different thing from a farm on the mountain. A farm in Pennsylvania is quite unlike a farm in Illinois. I like them both. In some respects I like each better than the other. On the mountain there is freshness and ever changing beauty; on the prairie there is richness and abounding fertility. Every location has its advantages and disadvantages. After viewing them all we ought to be contented with our lot wherever it may be, and feel that the chief excellencies of our farms and homes are of our own make; that almost any place may be made both profitable and pleasant if we will but do our part well.

Some things I have seen pleased me much, especially the good barns and well fenced fields of Ohio and Pennsylvania. For hundreds of miles I saw no plows, or carts, or wagons, or mowers, or fanning mills, or rakes, or any other farming utensils exposed to the wind and weather. All not in actual use were well housed. The barns were ample and handsomely finished, supplied with water, shed room, stable room, granaries, &c., &c. Their architectural arrangements seemed complete for the ends for which they were built. It is clear to my mind that money put into barns is more profitable than money put into houses. A good barn is a saving's bank on the farm. An expensive house is often the outlet at which flows out many hard earned profits. I believe in both good houses and good barns, but especially in good barns.

All along my route I saw a great lack of fruit. Hundreds of farm houses stand in the open field without a fruit tree about them to relieve by shade or supply the home with fruit. How gloomy and negligent it looks to see neither cherry, nor peach, nor apple, nor pear, nor plum, nor currant on the farm. Yet in Ohio I saw many young orchards, usually on some knoll or side hill or elevated place. But not one to where there ought to be twenty. Nor is there half the variety of fruit that ought to be cultivated. In Pennsylvania the orchards are becoming old and few new ones are being reared to take their places. This is too true over all the older parts of our country. Let our farmers in the West give heed to this important part of husbandry and plant orchards that benefit themselves and their children.

STEAM POWER FOR FARM WORK.

The numerous inventions designed for farm work succeed each other in such rapid succession and among them so many are offered to the public of doubtful utility and often those that prove of no practical value, that farmers are slow to adopt those that are great labor saving machines and deserve a place on every considerable farm. Such we regard the Portable Steam Engine of modern construction. It is but recently that steam has been applied to the many uses to which it is adapted. We well remember when horses were employed to propel the boats across the various ferries that conect the surrounding country with the great city of New York, and at a much more recent date we have seen them on ferries in other parts of the country. But now, in many places where other motive power has long been employed in various manufacturing operations, economy has demanded the use of steam. In England steam power has long been used for various purposes upon the farm, and of late its value has begun to be appreciated among the more extensive American farmers. We have visited farms where the steam engine is employed in breaking hemp, threshing grain, grinding flour, cutting straw and hay, sawing timber, fire-wood. &c., not only at a great saving of cost over the use of horses for threshing, but contributing greatly to the economy of stock feeding, as well as saving a great amount of labor in other departments. It is but a few years since the most of the grain grown in the great West was trod out by horses upon the ground where it was grown, subjecting it to damage by moisture, dirt, and

eight horses to run them, while the high gearing of the machine is subject to speedy wear and tear, making the whole operation an expensive one. Where steam has been employed in an engine of the proper construction, it has generally been regarded as a great improvement for threshing, besides the many other uses to which it may be applied. Some have been deterred from using steam for threshing, &c., for fear of fire, but as the engines are now made by most manufacturers, there is little to fear from this, indeed, it is almost impossible to communicate fire from the smoke pipe, as all the escape steam is discharged into the pipe, which entirely kills all the sparks that leave the furnace.

Engines are now manufactured especially for farm work in a number of establishments in various parts of the country. One was exhib ited in operation at the late State Fair of Illinois, at Centralia, by Messrs. Owen, Lane & Dyer, manufacturers at Dayton, Ohio, of the celebrated threshers and separators. Messrs. Barbaroux & Snowden, of Louisville Ky., are also manufacturing the most substantial, portable and well arranged engines for farmers that we have seen. These machines are mounted on wheels, and are as easily moved from one part of the farm to another, or from one farm to another as a common farm wagon. For persons who are engaged going round in threshing for farmers, they would be far better adapted to the purpose and more economical than horse power machines.

IRVINE VALLEY, Buchanan Co., Mo., September 30th. 1858.

MR. COLMAN:—I had hoped that I should (in common with many other farmers) have had the pleasure of seeing you at our Fair, which came off at St. Joseph last week.

The amount of stock exhibited was not so great as last year, but of a much superior quality. The other departments were well filled, and evidenced quite an improvement upon the previous Fairs of the society. The crowd in attendance was larger by far than we have ever had before. The result is that our Society is in a more prosperous condition than it has ever been, and the Board seem determined to improve upon the past.

During the Fair we held an Agricultural Meeting, to discuss the propriety (rather necessity) of the next Legislature establishing Agricultural Schools and Colleges. The meeting unanimously adopted a Preamble and Resolutions urging upon the Legislature the establishment of an Agricultural school or College, in this part of the State, and appointed a Committee to memorialize the Legislature in its behalf. W. L. IRVINE.

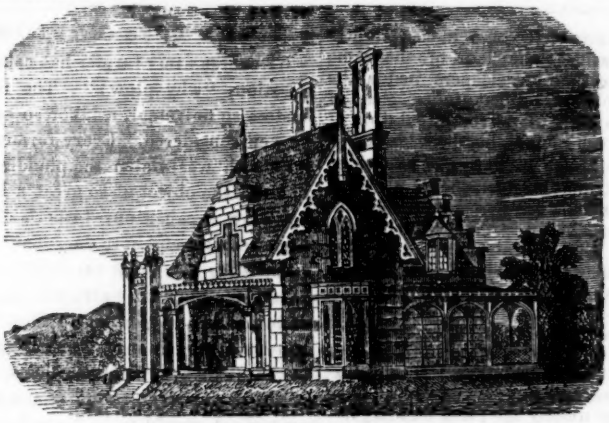
[Written for the Valley Farmer.]

AGRICULTURE IN ARKANSAS.

EDS. VALLEY FARMER:—I see published in your September number, a letter from a Texas correspondent under the heading of "Agriculture in Texas." Now, believing you to be impartial, and not having seen an article in your valuable journal from this State, and thinking it might possibly interest some of your numerous readers, at least those who are now in search of new homes, I give, with your permission, some of the advantages of this country. You are aware that this State has never come much into notice in the way of agriculture, and yet there is not a better *garden spot* to be found in any of the several States. It only needs to be examined and compared with other States, to have its value properly estimated. I have traveled over some fifteen of the different States, and Arkansas is *my* choice. It is destined to take the lead as an agricultural State. We only need railroads and a few scientific men to set aside all inconveniences. Our State has a bad name abroad, but it is a slander. None need fear that her good qualities will not be brought to light sooner or later. I have been a resident of this State upwards of twenty years, and am pretty well acquainted with the soil and climate, and pronounce them to be the very best. The health of the State is good; we scarcely know what sickness is.—Doctors are the only ones who find it hard to live in Arkansas; though it is true we have some chills here. I know many laboring men who have become independently rich, honestly, and have retired from business. Money is now scarce and everything demands high prices.

Notwithstanding the heavy rains in the spring, the farmers have made good crops of corn, and cotton was never known to be better; potatoes are not so good. There is very little attention paid to the raising of grasses in this section of country, but the climate is well adapted to it. Each farmer raises only enough for his own use. Land pays better in cotton than any other production, that is, the river lands. There is a great deal of grain raised on the uplands; but the mills are very indifferent. We need some Yankee ingenuity. I should say the average yield of Indian corn is seventy-five bushels to the acre; wheat, twenty-five or thirty; cotton, one bale. Good unimproved land can be bought for five dollars per acre, while the improved is held at thirty to forty dollars. We have but two agricultural societies in the State. The planters in this vicinity are just now beginning to pay some attention to the raising of blooded stock. Several of my neighbors attended and purchased at the Louisville fair last year.

Our mail facilities are such that we seldom ever receive the Farmer until the month is more than half gone. "Better late than never;" but I have missed getting some of my numbers, and I consider it a great loss, as my intention is to have them bound. I am about getting up a club to send in for the next year. I am determined you shall have a fine list of subscribers in ARKANSAS.



ENGLISH RURAL COTTAGE.

We here present our readers with an engraving of a beautiful cottage of the English style, taken from Downing's Rural Architecture. It is probably too ornamental in its appearance to suit the most of our readers. Yet the plan of the cottage is an excellent one, admitting of superior interior arrangements. We are glad to see a spirit for architectural improvement abroad in the land. Good buildings add a charm to the country which nothing else can. Such fine farms as most western farmers own are worthy of the most beautiful buildings. We shall, from time to time, publish engravings of buildings with the view to encourage a spirit of improvement in this direction. We are not tied down to any particular style, believing with Downing that "a blind partiality for any one style in building is detrimental to the progress of improvement, both in taste and comfort. The variety of means, habits and local feelings, will naturally cause many widely different tastes to arise among us; and it is only by the means of a number of distinct styles, that this diversity of tastes can be accomodated. There will always be a large class of individuals in every country, who prefer a plain square house because it is more economical, and because they have little feeling for architectural, or, indeed, any other species of beauty. But besides such, there will always be found some men of finer natures, who have a sympathetic appreciation of the beautiful in nature and art. Among these, the classical scholar and gentleman may, from association and a love of antiquity, prefer a villa in the Grecian or Roman style. He who has a passionate love for pictures, and especially fine landscapes, will, perhaps, very naturally, prefer the modern Italian style for a country residence. The wealthy proprietor, either from the romantic and chivalrous associations connected with the baronical castle, or from desire to display his own resources, may indulge his fancy in erecting a castellated dwelling. The gentleman who wishes to realise the *beau ideal* of a genuine old English country residence, with its various internal comforts, and its spirited exterior, may establish himself in a Tudor villa or mansion; and the lover of nature and rural life, who, with more limited means, takes equal interest in the beauty of his grounds or garden (however small) and his house—who is both an admirer of that kind of beauty called the picturesque, and has a lively perception of the effect of a happy adaptation of buildings to the landscape—such a person will very naturally make choice of the rural cottage style."

HOW ICE HOUSES ARE BUILT.

The plan of building ice houses on the top of the ground has been gaining favor for several years past, and a number have been erected which fully answer the purpose intended, several having ice in them at the present time. I propose offering a few remarks on their construction.

In the choice of a location, I would prefer one where the wagon or sled, on which the ice is hauled, would have the advantage in height; the side of a barn or wagon house abutment would give this, the ice house being placed so far from it as to admit of a free current of air. This also facilitates the getting in and out of the house for ice. Last fall I projected one for a neighbor, which he built of the bottom plank of an old canal boat; two frames were made, sills and plates, 12 feet square; the timbers 6 inches in width, and four posts also 6 inches: the plank were 10 feet long, and the outside ones spiked on perpendicularly, the inside horizon-

tally, the intervening space of 6 inches tightly packed with sawdust; the floor of the same kind of plank resting on sleepers inside the building, the whole set on flat stones, clear of the ground, admitting of a free circulation of air underneath; the roof of hemlock boards.

This house the owner informs me, has ice in it now, (Sept. 20) having furnished a plentiful supply for his and his brother's use, during the season, they both being farmers with dairies of ten or twelve head of cattle each. It cost about $15 in money expended. This I think is below the real value of the material, old boats being not at hand in many localities.

I subjoin a description of one I have superintended the erection of for another neighbor this fall, with some slight alterations It is a neat building, sufficiently so in appearance to take a conspicuous place among the farm buildings.—It is 12 feet square on the outside, 10 feet high to square, weather-boarded with white pine siding and lined with inch hemlock; roof, cypress shingles; projects over 18 inches at ends, and 12 inches at eves. Previous to putting on roof, lath were nailed on underside of rafters, and rye straw tightly packed in and the lath to receive the shingles then put on; an open triangular space extending 18 inches down from the underside of the peak of rafters, left in each end for ventillation, (the matter of sufficient ventillation is too small generally in ice houses, and is one principal cause why so many fail of keeping ice the year round.) The projection of the roof at the ends is simply formed by letting the lath extend over a barge-board and 5 inches nailed on their ends, forms the finish, the roof thus projecting is a sufficient protection to the ventilators, rendering lattice work unnecessary; by dropping the tie 2 feet in end door, there is a gain in filling; the floor rests on sleepers inside, with a slant of about 4 inches, the plank not being placed close together; a space of 1 or 2 inches between the lining of the house and the floor all round, in order that the melting water may pass freely off. The whole is set on flat stones, the floor is covered with a layer of rye straw and then a coating of sawdust some 8 inches thick, on which the ice rests. If sawdust cannot be procured, (here it costs only the hauling from the mills,) tan, wheat chaff, or rye straw tightly packed in, will answer the purpose.

If it is desired to add a good milk house, it is only necessary to build larger, say 12 by 18 feet, lining sides and roof in the same manner, and running a partition across it, with 3 by 4 studding, lined on both sides between them. In this case it would be best to have a stone wall foundation for the house to rest on, and a lime and sand floor under the part occupied by ice, to conduct the cold water into the milk-house, otherwise, if the ground be open, it would absorb too much of it.—*Ex.*

THE USES OF PLOWING.

Of course every farmer has asked himself the question, "why plow?" The reasons for a custom so universal, a labor so great, ought to be well considered. Every farmer boy who follows with weary step the plodding plow ought to know the object of so great a labor. We do not plow because our father's did, simply, or because our neighbors do. There are intrinsic reasons for it. What are they?

1st. We plow to pulverize the soil. It is a rude process of grinding. The value of a soil consists as much in its perfect pulverization as in the quality of its ingredients. Almost any of the hard rocks of our country, if perfectly pulverized, would make a good soil. The chief advantage of an alluvial soil is the impalpable powder of which much of it is composed. The seeming richness deposited on bottom lands by an overflow is the sediment deposited by the water. It is not a manure, or any quality, so much as a fertilizing condition. Plants live on atoms, on the fine, powdered particles of the soil in which they grow. Their rootlets are furnished with little mouths which pump, as it were, the fine ingredients of the soil for their nourishment. And there must be much unpalpable powder in the soil or plants cannot thrive well. Let the plowman keep this in mind, and he will see to it that his plow stirs and breaks up and crushes every clod in the furrow. He will not be so anxious for wide furrows as for good work, nor so anxious to do much as to do it well.

2d. We plow to air the soil, that the mechanical and chemical action of the air on the soil exposed may help the process of pulverization, may lubricate and loosen all its parts. The roots of plants need air as well as the leaves.—The soil must be so porous, so light that air will permeate all its parts, or it will fail for the purposes of vegetation. Keep this in mind and the plowman will work still more intelligently, for he will seek to upturn and loosen every inch of soil within the reach of his plow, that air and daylight may pay it a refreshing visit.

3d. Still another object is to bring up the subsoil and mix it with the upper, that its fertilizing qualities may come within the reach of the rootlets, and so to make of the whole a richer and better compost for vegetable uses. Connected with this idea of deep plowing is that of affording a drainage in times of flood, that the roots of plants be not drowned. The deeper the pulverized soil, the better in wet as well as dry seasons. A deep, porous soil resists

drought, and drains the land of superfluous water. A thorough mixture of all the ingredients of the soil is also sought by the plow. Manure, loam, sand, clay, all should be mixed as completely as possible, that the roots may have free and easy access to all.

4th. Another object is the destruction of weeds, grass and all foreign plants, that nothing but the crop designed shall grow thereon.

If the plowman reasons while he works and consults the nature of plants and the uses of soils, he will do his work well, and augment his intelligence by his daily labor.

CANARY SEED.

Canary grass (*phalaries canariensis*) is cultivated in some parts of the south of England, and probably in other portions of Europe. It is a native of the Canary Islands. The seed has become quite an article of commerce, and large quantities are annually imported into the United States for food for Canary birds. It sells at wholesale generally at about six or eight cents a pound. The Canary grass is an annual, with a stem from twelve to eighteen inches high, with lively green leaves about half an inch in width. It is a crop while growing somewhat resembling wheat; the head of the grain is very beautiful, something less in length than a head of wheat, and variegated. The seeds are sown in February, in rows about a foot apart at the rate of four or five gallons per acre. It is ready for the harvest in September, and yields from thirty to forty bushels per acre. The chaff and straw is said to be superior to any other culminous plant as food for horses, being very nutritious, though the chief object of its cultivation is for the seed. There is a greatly increasing demand for bird seed in the United States. Besides the large quantities of Canary seed that is imported, thousands of bushels of hemp seed are sold, forming an important item of trade with a number of merchants in Kentucky, who ship the seed to every quarter of the country, and frequently the home supply fails and large quantities are imported from Russia and Germany.

This subject was brought to mind by seeing a quantity of Canary grass growing where the seed had been accidentally scattered in a fertile soil, from the bird cages in the family. The plants attracted our attention from the singular appearance of the head, which led to an investigation of its kind and character. We are favorably impressed with its luxuriant growth, and think it worthy of trial as a farm crop. It is not all the seed offered in market that can be depended upon for sowing, as much of it becomes too old; but when procured from first hands, soon after importation, it will generally vegetate as well as any other grain.

AGRICULTURAL COLLECTIONS.

In the new State capitol of Ohio, at Columbus, a suit of rooms have been fitted up with shelves and cases for the reception and safe-keeping of specimens of the products of the State; for instance, good specimens of wheat in the head, corn in the ear, varieties of grass, &c., together with rare and curious articles interesting to the scientific and agricultural public. These are all under the charge of the energetic and talented Secretary of the State society, J. H. Klippart, Esq.

Probably the most extensive and complete pecimens of crops, including specimens of the soils of the various counties in the State, are to be found at Albany, in the State of New York. In addition to the large collection of specimens of the various crops, agricultural implements of ancient and foreign manufacture, as well as those of the most improved of modern date, there is a complete collection of the Natural History of the State, arranged in the most perfect order, in cases admirably fitted for them. The collection of birds, quadrupeds, fishes, reptiles and insects, is very complete. Added to this there is a large collection of minerals and fossils, making a very extensive and interesting museum, open daily to the public. These rooms have been erected expressly for the purpose, by the most liberal appropriations, by the State Legislature.

We know of no appropriation the several States can make that will be more useful and interesting than for similar collections at their respective capitols. For instance, the collections of choice specimens of the various agricultural products of the State, always open to the inspection of the public, would serve as a perpetual exhibition of what can be grown, acting as a stimulant to every visitor to equal or excel. Such an exhibition would also lead to inquiry and an investigation of the most approved methods of cultivation, and to the general improvement of agriculture throughout the States.

The St. Louis Agricultural and Mechanical Association, though not a State institution, would do itself great credit and the city and State some service, if they would provide for a similar collection in the city of St. Louis.

REMOVING THE FIBER FROM COTTON SEED.

It is said that a machine has been invented and put in successful operation in Antwerp, for cleansing cotton seed from the adhering fibres. From two to three tons of seed can be cleaned per day by this machine of four horse power, requiring the attendance of three persons. The cotton surrounding the seed is perfectly removed and is sold to carpet manufacturers and paper makers, at from 30 to 50 cents for one hundred kilogrammes—about $10, for two hundred and twenty pounds. The oil is then expressed and used for various purposes, and the cakes remaining are sold at the same price of the ordinary kinds of oil cake. The cost of the machinery is said not to be expensive.

Efforts have been made with some success in the United States to accomplish this result, and other parties are still making experiments with the same object in view. The aggregate quantity of cotton seed raised in the United States annually amounts to many tons and may be rendered of great value if only properly employed; heretofore but little use has been made of it, except as a manure.

ROADS.

Wherever we travel we find poor roads. For three or four months in summer, perhaps they are passably good. But as soon as the autumn rains begin to fall, they become execrable, and remain so till late the following spring. Farmers are not able, generally, to take half a load of their produce to market, at any time, and traveling is a slow, tedious operation. The whole west is suffering on account of poor roads. In nothing are the people more remiss than in making them. The road overseers are frequently, and generally, very neglectful of their duties, and some of the farmers themselves, feel that if they can cheat their roads—work a less number of days, or not half work, when summoned out, they are doing something smart. The road overseers generally know but little about the proper method of constructing roads, and care but little how the work is done, so the time is consumed, which is required by law to be devoted to the roads.

Now all this is wrong. There is nothing which improves the appearance of a country more, nothing which tends more to enhance the value of farms, nothing which speaks higher of the intelligence and refinement of the people. The great fault with road making as too generally practiced is, they are made too flat, level, the water remains upon them—they become muddy—the wagons consequently cut great ruts in them, and, too frequently, the water runs off in the centre, or on one side, cutting them up badly, and rendering them impassable.

The proper method of constructing roads is a very simple matter. The most important point is to round up the centre of the road, so that no water will remain upon it—but run off as soon as it falls, into ditches on each side, which should always be kept open to carry off the water that falls. In a few hours after a rain, if the road is made thus rounding from the centre to the ditches, the road becomes dry and firm. In this consists the great art of road-making—high in the centre and declining gradually to the sides. Wherever we have roads so constructed, they have been invariably good.

Ditches should always be opened on the sides to carry off the water, and the earth taken out, to make the ditches, should be put in the centre to make the road high, and consequently dry. Farmers are more interested than other classes in good roads, and they should see to it that they are constructed. We are not sure but that each county should keep in good repair all roads in the county—then we might have good roads—but as it is now they are generally in a horrid condition.

[Written for the Valley Farmer.]

EDS. VALLEY FARMER:—Permit me through your excellent Journal to make a suggestion to the managers of our St. Louis Agricultural and Mechanical Association.

Under the present programme one of the most interesting features is necessarily left out, viz: the oration. Now, sirs, if a suitable pavilion were erected on the fair grounds, sufficient in size to accommodate from three to five thousand persons seated, for the purpose of the delivering of orations during the fair—say one each day at a certain hour—there can scarcely be a doubt but that every seat would be filled during the delivery of each oration, and the orations would become the chief features of attraction.

Let this suggestion be carried out and a new species of contest is at once introduced—the contest of the master minds of our great valley to attain the highest excellence in oratory, and the high position of being ranked among the finest orators. Very obediently, yours,

CIVES.

St. Louis, Sept. 4, 1857.

[For the Valley Farmer.]

FOR THE BOYS.---ABOUT PLOWS.

Did you ever hear of a plow used in olden times so much addicted to kicking that upon a certain occasion it kicked a boy over a fence and kicked at him twice through the fence? If not, I would just remark that such a story was told, and the narrator says that the plow was one of the old bar-shear pattern, stocked very high. The plow has been used almost from time immemorial and the course of time has marked many improvements in its construction. From the fact of its antiquity, great significance is attached to the simple words, "the plow." If a young man asks counsel relative to what business he shall pursue and I advise him to follow the *plow*, he is in no danger of mistaking my meaning, hence the word *plow* has more significance than any other word I might use pertaining to this or any other pursuit. There are a good many little turns upon a farm which boys may do before they can plow, but it is here their services begin to be appreciated. A part of my scribbling now is to try to encourage the *boys* to do their work well. We often hear persons say that boys broke that field, and I had better have done it myself; or that boys laid by that corn and did not half plow it, &c.—Boys are in many instances careless and do not interest themselves in their work, the sole object being to get done. Still there are many cases where the blame attaches itself to older persons after a full revelation of the facts. It is, however, very convenient to have the *boys shoulders* upon which to pack the dirty work and saddle the blame. I must say in defence of the boys, that we occasionally find a smart lad actually taking *more pains* and doing *better work* than the older hands. When I find one of this character I set it down that he will make a *good* farmer. Twenty years ago the old Carey plows were in vogue, and those who used them recollect that it was a hard matter to get them to scour. At that time I was quite young but remember that I used to pride myself very much on having a nice little paddle hung to my plow handles, made of hard wood. Occasionally we had to stop and scrape the dirt off, and I used to think seriously of getting a little iron scraper made at the blacksmith shop, (out of my own pocket change,) in order, as I thought, to be a little ahead of the rest of the boys.—Nowadays a plow requiring an appendage of this kind is discarded. We have now an almost endless variety of patterns, suited to different purposes, and I like to see boys inquiring into the why and wherefore of their running qualities. A plow for sod must run back well and have considerable twist in the mold board, in order to give the furrow a complete turn.—A plow which sets rather obliquely, with considerable length of bar, enters the ground with less resistance and will run lighter on the team, and steadier in the hand than other kinds. One with a more upright set will throw the dirt harder and will generally leave the work more level and even, &c.

Boys take notice, and then when you go to the shop for the purpose of having your plow sharpened or repaired, if the blacksmith is not a practical man, (in the field) he may be profited by your suggestions. Observe, too, that having once set your plow there is a particular distance from the furrow for one of the horses to walk so as to get along well. Train your team to a proper gait and make the horse on the land keep an even and proper distance from the furrow. Regulate so as to have your plow run as nearly level as possible.

Perhaps I might make some other suggestions, but it is probable that my article is already long enough. ****

WHERE DID THE SEEDS COME FROM?

"The Green river barrens, that fifty years ago, in Kentucky, were covered with grass and strawberries, Morning Glories and other flowers, and were the resort of immense flocks of quail and a multitude of rabbits, are now great forests of oaks, hickory and chesnut trees. This great change from a field to a forest, has been effected, in less than half a century. The germs of the oak, the chesnut and the hickory were in nature, unless we give the great colony of squirrels the credit of planting the chesnut, the walnut and the acorn from their winter store of nuts collected in other localities."

We find the foregoing in an exchange. We have long been familiar with the *barrens* of Kentucky, and have witnessed the change that has gradually been going on there, from a *prairie* to a *forest*. The country embraced under the denomination of barrens, extends from the Ohio river below Louisville to the south and west a distance of over seventy miles in length to half that distance in depth.

"The germs of the oaks, the chesnut and the hickory, were in nature." This declaration, we consider, embraces the true solution of the case. We have often expressed the idea, and have as often been rebuked, because it was not regarded as strictly orthodox, according to true scriptural interpretation. The same may have been said of the great discovery of Galileo of the rotation of the earth upon its axis.

The geological truths now revealed teaching the antiquity of the globe upon which we dwell, were less than forty years ago, denounced by the whole christian world, as impious and in direct violation of the words of the Bible, but they are now universally admitted to accord fully with the teachings of that sacred work. So it will be with the mysteries of vegetation referred to, and many similar instances that are now only accounted for upon false theories.

To suppose that the millions of seeds necessary to convert that vast extent of country into a forest, were conveyed there by squirrels, is

absurd, to say the best of it, no more so, however, than the explanations, that are generally offered as a substitute for one of the most beautiful laws of nature.

TOOL HOUSE.

In traveling through the country we find there are more farmers who leave their farm implements and machines exposed to the weather, after the season of their use has passed, than there are of those who have a house and "a place for everything and everything in its place."

The number of farm implements and machines have greatly increased within the last ten or fifteen years, many of these are indispensable, at the present day, to successful farming. These require a considerable outlay in their purchase, and true economy should dictate that suitable shelter should be provided for them until the operations of another season require their use. A plow, horse-rake, or mowing machine, will be injured by exposure to the weather during one winter more than by all the wear and tear from careful usage, during the working season. Many farmers who have ample room for the storage of their tools, through neglect leave them exposed to the weather from the time they were used one season, until they are wanted for the next. Where this is the case, a rule should at once be established and every workman be required rigidly to follow it—that as soon as an implement is done with, it is to be immediately housed. Such a rule once established will afterwards be easily maintained.

Where suitable buildings do not already exist, it will be but a small matter to erect them. They do not necessarily require to be costly, but temporary sheds are better than no protection.

IK MARVEL'S ADDRESS TO FARMERS.

Donald G. Mitchel (Ik Marvel) recently delivered the annual address before the Connecticut State Agricultural Society. From a condensed report we select the following admirable paragraphs:

"But there is something worth living for besides money. That is very good, but that is not all. With the rest, let us raise a crop of good ideas. While you are a farmer, remember that you are men, with duties and responsibilities.—Live down the old brutal notion that a farmer must be uncouth, uneducated, and unthinking—a mere plodder.

You are brought into contact with the great of civilization. You cannot get out of the buzz of the toiling world. The thrill of the wonder working wires and the rumble of the locomotive (the thunder-tread of nations) come to your own secluded hill-side.

Move towards a better life. Do not keep your boys corn-shelling in the long winter evenings. Make your farm a place that your sons and daughters cannot help loving. Cultivate the trees—they are God's messengers. Don't say that you care nothing for looks. You *do care*, else why did you build that two story white house with blinds, and a cupola into which you never go? Or, why did you, years ago, carefully brush your coat and pluck up your shirt collar when you were starting, on a Sunday evening to visit that good woman who now shares your home?

Care much more for books and pictures. Don't keep a solemn parlor, into which you go but once a month with the parson or sewing society. Hang around your walls pictures which shall tell stories of mercy, hope, courage, faith and charity. Make your living room the largest and most cheerful in the house.

Let the room be such that when your boy has gone to distant lands, or even when, perhaps he clings to a single plank in the lonely waters of the wide ocean the thoughts of a homestead shall still come across the desolation, bringing always light, hope, and love.

Bave no dungeon about your house—no room you never open—no blinds that are always shut.

Don't teach your daughters French before they can weed a flower-bed or cling to a side saddle, and daughters be not ashamed of the pruning knife. Bring to your doors the richest flowers from the woods; cultivate the friendship of birds, study botany, learn to love nature, and seek a higher cultivation than fashionable life would give you.

Exhibition of Steam Plows.

The Executive Committee of the Illinois State Agricultural Society have determined to have a trial of Steam Plows, at Decatur, Illinois, on the 10th of November. Several Steam Plows will be there to compete for the $5,000 premium offered by the Society, and among them the Fowkes Steam Plow that was exhibited at Centralia, at the Illinois State Fair. Those who are interested in Steam Plows would do well to attend this exhibition. We have no doubt there will be a large concourse of people in attendance. We hope to be present.

Stock Raising Department.

MAD ITCH IN CATTLE.

Cattle frequently die after painful illness, called by some *Mad Itch*. The disease receives this name from the fact that cattle attacked with it show a disposition to scratch and rub the head with a degree of violence that could result only from real madness. This, however, we do not regard as induced so much from any itching sensation as from distress and derangement of the nerves of the brain, resulting from the disease, and the cattle seek relief in this way. The disease may be produced from eating various substances, but most generally from eating corn stalks that have been cut up and fed to hogs in a green state. They chew the stalks and swallow the juice for the sake of the sacharine matter they contain, leaving the tough fibres of the stalk, unbroken in their length. In this condition the cattle frequently eat them with avidity; but in this state they contain little else than woody fiber, which are but slightly masticated before they are swallowed by the cattle; these form into a compact, indigestible mass in the stomach of the animal and remain in a dry, fermenting condition, causing severe inflammation, deranging all the natural functions of the stomach and the system generally, and this derangement at once extends to the brain, as the organ which most readily sympathizes with the disorganized state of the stomach, producing the most excruciating distress, that may very properly be termed madness. Occurring so frequently as it does from this cause, we feel it due to our readers to make it generally known, with the hope of preventing it in future. When corn is fed, as it frequently is, on the stalk in the green state to hogs, (and which we think is the most profitable form) care should be taken to feed it in enclosures not open to cattle; or if cattle are turned into the field, the stalks should first be gathered up and removed beyond their reach.

We have known a similar derangement of the stomach of cattle to be produced by eating the young, wilted leaves of white oak timber when it has been cut at the period of its early growth, say when two-thirds grown. In this stage they are exceedingly downy, and when wilted and eaten in this condition, they are about as indigestible as a piece of sponge.

As a cure for the Mad Itch, a good drenching of warm lard or castor oil, has been recommended. We have also seen spirits of turpentine suggested, in quantities of a tablespoonful at a time, repeating the dose a second time in fifteen minutes, if a cure is not affected after the first, but death too frequently ensues in spite of any proposed remedy that we have seen. Prevention alone should be relied upon.

TEXAS FEVER IN CATTLE.

Within the last fortnight it is estimated that from fifty to sixty cows have died, within the City limits of an epidemic fever, the real value of which would exceed two thousand dollars. Here the disease is called Texas fever, and the general belief is that it has been introduced by droves of Texas cattle which passed through here several weeks since. The belief that the epidemic is traceable to these Texas droves is strengthened by the fact, that the disease is generally, if not entirely confined to cows that graze west of the City, where these Texas droves have been herded, while cows confined in pastures and grazing east of the City, in localities unfrequented by the Texas droves, have escaped. There may have been one or two instances where a cow, confined in pasture, has died of the disease; but in such instances, it is traceable, that diseased cows, having grazed west of the City, have communicated the malady.

This so called "Texas Fever," created great destruction throughout interior Missouri, in 1854, particularly in the central and south western portions of the State, leading to the enactment of a law, by the ensuing legislature, the winter following, prohibiting the introduction of droves of Texas cattle into the State. In some parts of the State the people armed themselves, turning the Texas drovers back, threatening, in self defence, to kill the cattle if an attempt was made to drive them amongst them. The temper of the people and the law came almost too late to do much good during that year, and since then Texas cattle, not being diseased and no epidemic being prevalent, have unmolested traversed the State. By some few it is asserted that Texas cattle are not answerable for the introduction of the disease, and they deduce this opinion from the fact that the Texas cattle are not sick and dying of the disease like our own cattle. But this is not the fact, for it is well known that almost entire droves of Texas cattle died of the disease in Bates and neighboring counties in 1854, and, it is also probable that diseased cattle, on the mend, like convalescent small pox patients, would communicate the disease to cattle here, while those in the Texas drove, from previous attacks or constitutional hardihood, might not be so liable to take the disease.

The prevalence of such an ungovernable disease, is evidently of tropical or semi-tropical origin. It has been prevalent in the Southern States during the past summer, sometimes designated as murrain and sometimes fever, because the fever is frequently attended with the same symptoms as "bloody murrain." We had a valuable cow which we cured of Texas fever,

in 1854, which died of the recent epidemic, a few days since. We cured her in '54, by first bathing the top of the head and root of the horns with turpentine, drenching with a solution of satlpeter, glauber salts and sulphur, and feeding the cow on grasses, apples and peaches, the fruit being abundant, convenient and wasting—at the same time boring the lower part of the base of the horns with a large sized spike-gimblet, keeping the holes open to carry off the inflammation from the head. The cow under this practice got well, and some neighbors to whom we made known the receipt were alike successful.

The same remedy, with the same animal, an unusually large and strong cow, failed; but the symptoms were not altogether the same, as the cow seemed to suffer less in the head, bleeding slightly at the nose, and the urine being discolored with blood and very offensive, nothing unusual appearing in the excrement. The second day the tail of the cow was slit open, and an application of salt and pepper applied to destroy a worm which some persons alledge, is usually found in diseased cows at this time. Cutting the tail did no good and probably no harm, as the location of the disease was evidently in the liver and kidneys. All cows recently suffering from the disease have died, though we have heard of two or three which were saved before it assumed an epidemic form, one of which being confined in a pasture where there was no water drank a bucket of strong brine and got well. As the disease is in an epidemic form, here, no cure is known, as yet, for it, and it may be as destructive as in '54, for Texas droves still traverse the State disseminating the plague along our public thoroughfares, while less exposed localities escape. It is time to seek security for the future, by an enforcement of the law against Texas drovers.—*Boonville Obs.*

NOTES OF TRAVEL.

Fair in Yankee Land—Foot Race—Trotting Match—Morgan Horses—Sheep—Peculiarities of a Yankee Fair—Crops, &c.

Cheshire Co., N. H., Sept. 28, '58.

Eds. Valley Farmer: Again I have followed the impulse of these traveling times, and am among the quiet farms and villages of New England. Yesterday I attended an Agricultural Fair in an adjoining county. It was much like a fair at the West, save that the peculiar industry of New England was faithfully represented. There were rows of butter-jars and yellow cheeses; loaves of brown and wheat bread; needle work, knit socks, mittens, gloves, woolen yarn white as snow, long teams of heavy oxen, sheep, cattle, horses, and live Yankees in abundance.

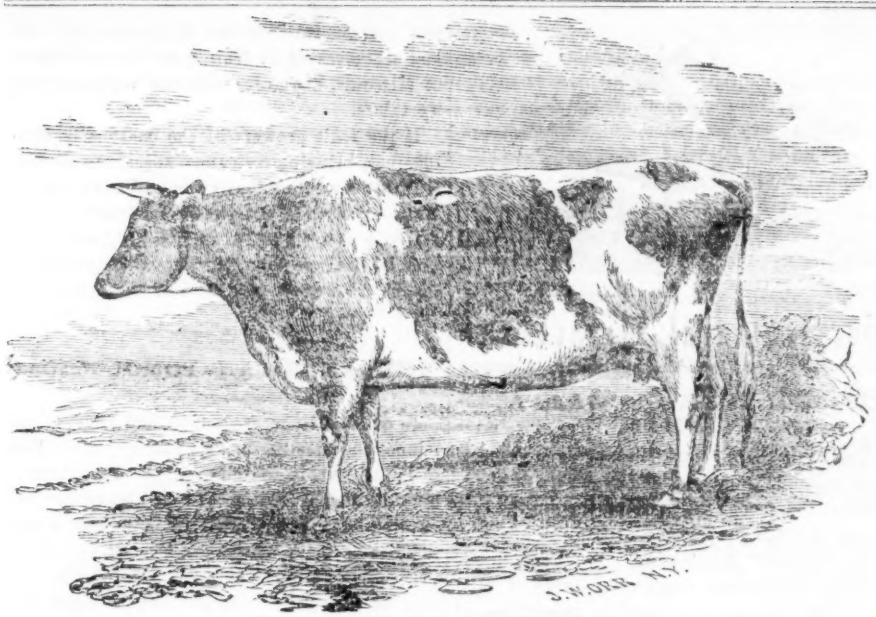
The attractive features of the day, were the foot race and the trotting match. Foot races have become common at Eastern fairs. In this case, the victor of a Vermont State fair was pitted against a young man of this county. It was an easy race—the Vermont victor falling behind considerably. The time made was a mile in five minutes, though the young man who won has run a mile in about four minutes on several previous occasions. The object is to encourage young men to cultivate physical strength and powers of endurance.

Several fine horses were entered, belonging in the county, none but county horse being admitted till the second day of the fair. The principal blood was Morgan and Black Hawk. A Morgan horse took the first premium. The best time made was two seconds less than three minutes per mile. Several others fell but little short. I am told there are quite a number of what are called three minute horses in the county. The horses here are generally small, closely built and exceedingly active and spirited. The Morgan blood prevails very largely. It is regarded as the hardiest and strongest, and not deficient in speed or spirit.

The sheep exhibited were of two general characteristics—fine wool, and mutton sheep. There is a quality of sheep that is fair for wool and good for mutton, that no doubt will generally be found more profitable, especially for Western uses. Mutton is an object in sheep raising, not to be lost sight of. It is a valuable meat and quite as prfitable as beef.

It is not a little amusing to attend a real Yankee fair. The Yankee's love for horses and oxen exhibits itself most distinctly. The lovers of oxen draw heavy loads prepared for the occasion. One of the loads was a stone weighing a little over three tons, placed upon a stone-dray. Several pairs of the oxen drew it very readily. The lovers of horses trot them; and if they do not enter the ring, they trot them where they please. Every man goes home at the best speed of his horse, droves of buggies following each other at four, five and six minutes per mile, as they can make—the best taking the lead and keeping it if possible.

The crops of New England are very fine this year. Times are growing easier. Business is improving. This busy land of industry shows many signs of steadily advancing prosperity. The weather is cool—season healthy.



JERSEY COW, CHARITY.

Calved 1850. Imported August 1854, from the Island of Jersey, by J. A. Taintor, for J. Howard McHenry, of Baltimore, Md.

CHARCOAL FOR HOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS.

One of the most simple and excellent medicines for any derangement of the stomach of human beings, is finely pulverized, fresh burnt charcoal. For this purpose it should be closely corked up in a bottle as soon as it has been burnt and ground; a teaspoonful taken in a wine glass of water once a day will frequently be found beneficial and worth more than all the quack nostrums with which the country is flooded.

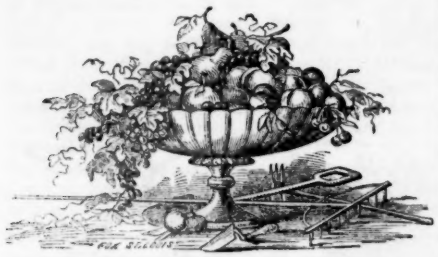
But our object was to speak of the value of charcoal to domestic animals, particularly to fattening hogs. A half pint of it finely pulverized and mixed with corn meal and water to each animal once or twice a week, will be found extremely beneficial in aiding digestion and preventing any derangement of the stomach, arising from over-feeding, as is liable to be the case with that hoggish animal. Besides serving as a medicine it is also extremely fattening, either in itself or rendering the food eaten more available by correcting and stimulating the digestive powers.

Charcoal has also been known to work wonders in fattening poultry, geese, ducks &c. It may be given in the same way as recommended for swine. Fowls that have accidentally been confined for a long time where they had access to no food, except charcoal, when discovered, were found not only to have sustained themselves but to have actually fattened.

LOCKJAW IN HORSES.

There is no domestic animal so liable to this painful and fatal disease as the horse, both from his great liability to tread upon nails and other sharp substances, and to the carelessness or want of skill exercised in shoeing, and owing to the lack of Veterinary practitioners in the United States, the disease most generally proves fatal. In a late number of the Edinburg *Veterinary Review*, a new system of treating lockjaw is described, which in most cases has resulted favorably. In the human subject, laboring under this disease, hot water has frequently been found effectual. The same treatment is referred to in the *Review*, and is applied in the form of "packing bath," as practiced in the Water-cure establishments.

As soon as the horse is observed to be effected by tetanus, it is wrapped from head to tail in several thicknesses of blankets, which have been wrung out of warm water at a temperature of 200° Fah. The animal is then allowed perfect rest and quietness for about two hours, when warm water of the same temperature is poured along its back outside of the blankets, and again a period of repose is allowed as before. This treatment is continued until a cure is effected. A thin gruel of flour, oat or Indian corn meal, is given, when the jaws of the animal are capable of being opened.



Horticultural Department.

MISSOURI FRUIT GROWERS ASSOCIATION.

The Fruit Growers of Missouri are respectfully solicited to meet at Jefferson City on Wednesday, the second week after the Legislature meets, for the purpose of forming a Missouri Fruit Growers' Association. We have, in addressing the farmers and fruit growers of Missouri, the past summer, urged the importance of establishing an association of this kind, during the coming winter, and we do not know of a better time than that above suggested, for this purpose.

The object of this association will be to have the fruit growers of the State meet together, annually, or semi-annually, or oftener, if it be thought advisable, for the purpose of discussing the merits of the various varieties of fruits that are now cultivated, to determine from experience which are best, and to recommend such varieties as are worthy of cultivation, and reject such as are unworthy.

There is not, in the State, a Horticultural or Pomological society. Consequently persons who wish to plant trees have no society, or body of fruit growers, to recommend what varieties to select and they are just as liable to plant such varieties, as do not succeed, in our soil and climate, as they are to plant those that do succeed, and probably a large proportion of those they plant are not worth the labor of planting.

Every person knows, who has paid any attention to the cultivation of fruit, that many of the most popular varieties, cultivated at the north and east, are entirely unadapted to our climate and soil, and it is just so much money wasted to buy such trees. Many of our most popular western varieties do not succeed at all at the east. So, without a society of this kind to recommend those varieties that do succeed well, in the West, the inexperienced fruit grower is left in the dark, as to which varieties to select, and the result is tens of thousands of dollars are invested in fruit trees by the farmers of Missouri, annually, that are comparatively worthless.

If the fruit growers of the State will come together, bringing with them specimens of their fruit, if they conveniently can—form an Association—give their experience—approve of such varieties as are adapted to Missouri, and reject such as are not adapted, they will deserve the thanks of every true friend of the State.

THE AMERICAN POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

In our last issue, we barely had room to announce the meeting of this society on the 14th of September, in the city of New York, and to give the names of the officers elected for the ensuing two years. We shall now only allude to some of the most interesting portions of the proceedings, omitting the discussions on the various fruits, but give the lists of fruits recommended, entire, as revised at this meeting. The list of cherries, as well as the lists of several kinds of smaller fruits, were not revised, the time having been mostly occupied in the discussion of the larger fruits.

The action of the Convention must have been highly gratifying to the feelings of the worthy President, Col. Wilder, in securing his re-election by the unanimous passage of the following resolutions, in advance of the regular election of officers, after he had expressed the opinion that it was due to some other member of the society to occupy the Chair for the ensuing term. The resolutions were offered by Mr. T. W. Field, of Brooklyn.

Resolved, That the thanks of the American Pomological Society be tendered to the Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, for his long and valuable services as President of the Association, and for the uniform courtesy and impartiality with which he has discharged the duties of his office.

Resolved, That in view of his distinguished ability as a presiding officer, and his extensive knowledge as a pomologist, his services are especially desirable to the Chair of the society, and that his acceptance of the same will be the surest guarantee of its progress and prosperity.

These resolutions not only received the unanimous sanction of the Convention, but were followed with enthusiastic cheers.

Mr. T. W. Field, the author of a new work on the Pear, read an interesting paper on "The adaptation of varieties to localities." Mr. F. also read a report from Dr. Louis Berckmans,

of New Jersey, a distinguished pomologist, formerly of Belgium, on Fruit Growing, comparing the advantages of the American fruit grower, with those of other countries. Dr. Berckmans said he had seen more good fruit at a single exhibition in Boston, than at twenty of the best exhibitions in Europe. At the south he had seen land almost worthless for common field crops, producing grapes worth four or five hundred dollars per acre. Besides being largely engaged in fruit growing in New Jersey, Dr. B. has more recently established another extensive fruit garden at Savannah, Ga., a region of country whose capacity for this department of horticulture has never been duly appreciated.

Mr. John J. Thomas sent in a paper which was read, on the extension of the roots of fruit trees compared with the top. This subject is one of so much importance, and is so little understood by thousands who sometimes remove the grass for the space of a foot or two around trees in orchards devoted to meadow and other crops, that we shall take occasion to remark more fully upon the subject at a future time.

Mr. Samuel J. Walker read a paper urging the society to adopt the necessary mears for publishing a catalogue of all the fruits ever grown in this country with full descriptions, and also catalogues adapted to each State or district of country, so that cultivators in any State or Territory may be able to make up a list of fruits adapted to their particular locations, without the risk of planting so many kinds that on trial prove worthless. We know of no more important duty that this society could perform to the country at large. The discussions, heretofore, have been confined to persons representing limited portions of the country, and the lists of fruit recommended for general cultivation necessarily fail in their adaptation to all portions. To obviate this difficulty, Mr. Bateham, of Ohio, proposed a list of seven varieties of apples contained in the society's list for general cultivation, which he wished designated by some character or mark, as not suited to middle and southern Ohio. This led to a lengthy discussion, and the evident conclusion that the adoption of such a rule would find no limit, and the lists of the society would ultimately be encumbered with such a mass of notes and exceptions as to render them almost valueless. The society is still in its infancy, yet it has accomplished much good, and we must wait patiently for an increase of its members, and a wider knowledge of the adaptation of fruits, and then we can adopt the plan proposed by Mr. Walker, to great advantage.

The Committee on rejected fruits reported a long list of apples, pears, strawberries, &c., for rejection. Of the former, there were perhaps one hundred or more varieties stricken from the catalogue. If nurserymen would consent to be governed in some degree, by abandoning the propagation of many of these inferior varieties of fruit, as acted upon by the Committee, and confine themselves to a more limited catalogue of the best kinds, it would not only lead to a great improvement in fruits, but remove the cause of great confusion arising from a long list of synonyms and inferior kinds, giving place to new and superior sorts.

The rejected list as reported by the Committees, were submitted to a vote of the Convention, three votes being sufficient to retain any one variety.

The discussion seemed to establish one important fact, viz: that the pear, under judicious cultivation, is adapted to a greater variety of soils and situations than the apple.

The Convention labored industriously, holding three sessions a day, morning, afternoon and night, with but one hour's intermission, and accomplished a great amount of work.

We give, in alphabetical order, the various lists of fruit entire, that is, such as have been recommended at former sessions of the society, with those added at the present meeting which are designated with a *.

When we receive the official report of the peoceedings of the session we shall publish in full the list of rejected fruits.

APPLES FOR GENERAL CULTIVATION.

American Summer Pearmain,
*Autumn Bough,
Baldwin,
Benoni,
*Broadwell,
Bullock's Pippin,
*Carolina June,
*Coggswell,
Danvers Winter Sweet,
Early Harvest,
Early Strawberry,
Fall Pippin,
Fameuse,
Gravenstein,
Hawley,
High Top Sweeting,
Hubbardson's Nonsuch,
*Jonathan,
Lady,
Ladies Sweet,
Large Yellow Bough,
Melon,
Minister,
*Monmouth Pippin,
Porter,
Primate,
Rambo,
RedAstrachan,
Rhode Island Greening,
Roxbury Russett,
*Smith's Cider,
Summer Rose,
Swaar,
Vandervere,
*Wagoner.
William's Favorite, (except for light soils)
Wine or Hays,
Winesap,

APPLES PROMISING WELL.

*Buckingham,
Fallowater,
Genesee Chief,
Jeffries,

King of Tompkins County,
Mother,
Primate,
Smokehouse,
*White Winter Pearm'n
Winter Sweet Paradise
Winthop Greening or Lincoln Pippin,
*Willis' Sweeting.

APPLES FOR PARTICULAR LOCATIONS.

Canada Red,
Æsopus Spitzenberg,
Newtown Pippin,
Northern Spy,
Ribston Pippin,
Yellow Bellflower,

PEARS

FOR GENERAL CULTIVATION—PEAR STOCK.

Ananas d'Ete,
Andrews,
Bartlett (Williams' Bon Chretien,)
Belle Lucrative or Fondandt d'Autumn,
Beurre d'Aremburg,
" Bosc,
" *Clairgeau,
" Diel,
" *Giffard,
" *Hardy (Sterckman's)
" St. Nicholas,
" *Superfin,
Bloodgood,
*Brandywine,
Buffum,
*Cabot,
Dearbon's Seedling,
Doyenne Boussock,
*Doyenne, d'Alencon,
Doyenne d'Ete,
Flemish Beauty,
Fulton,
Golden Beurre of Bilboa,
Howell,
*Kingsessing,
Lawrence,
Louise Bonne de Jersey,
Manning's Elizabeth,
*Onondaga,
Osband's Summer,
Paradise d'Automne,
St. Michael Archange,
Tyson,
Urbaniste,
Uvedal's St. Germain, for baking,
*White Doyenne,
Vicar of Winkfield,
Winter Nelis,

PEARS ON QUINCE STOCK.

*Belle Epine Dumas,
Belle Lucrative,
*Beurre d'Alencon,
" d'Amalis,
" d'Anjou,
" Diel,
" *Hardy (Sterckman's),
" Langelier,
" *Superfin,
*Buffum,
Catillac,
Duchess d'Angouleme,
Easter Beurre,
Figue d'Alencon,
Glout Morceau,
Louise Bonne de Jersey
Napoleon,
Noveau Poiteau,
Rostiezer,
Seckel,
Sheldon,
Soldat Laboureur,
St. Michael Archange,
Urbaniste,
Uvedale's St. Germain (or Belle Angevine, for baking,)
Vicar of Winkfield,
White Doyenne,

PEARS PROMISING WELL.

Adams,
*Hinkle,
Alpha,
*Bergen,
Beurre d'Allert,
*Beurre Gris d'Hiver Nouveau,
Beurre Kennes,
Beurre Langelier.
Beurre Nantais,
Chancellor,
Charles Van Hooghten,
Collins,
Compt de Flanders,
Compt d'Alost,
Conseillier de la Cour,
Duchess d'Orleans,
Duchess de Berri d'Ete,
Delices d'Hardenpont de Belgique,
Dix,
Emile d'Heyst,
Epine Dumas,
Fondandt deCharneuse,
Fondandt de Comice,
Fondandt de Malines,
Fondandt de Noel,
Hosen Schenk,
*Hull,
Jalouise de Fontenay Vendee,
Kirtland,
Limon,
Lodge of Pennsylvania,
*Meriam,
Niles,
Noveau Poiteau,
Ott,
Philadelphia,
*Pinneo (Boston),
Pius IX.
Pratt,
Rouselette, d'Esperne,
Steven's Genesee,
*Sterling,
Striped Madeline,
Theodore Van Mons,
Van Assene (Assche),
Walker,
Zepherine Gregoire,

PEACHES FOR GENERAL CULTIVATION.

Bergen's Yellow,
Crawford's Early,
Crawford's Late,
Cooledge's Favorite,
Early York (large)
Early York, (serrated,)
George IV.
Hill's Chili,
Large White (cling)
Madeline de Courson,
Morris' White,
Old Mixon Free,
Old Mixon (cling),
Téton de Venus,
Grosse Mignonne,

PEACHES PROMISING WELL.

*Chinese Cling,
*Columbia,
*Carpenter's White, (free),
Gorgas,
Susquehanna,
Heath (cling, for particular localities).

PLUMS FOR GENERAL CULTIVATION.

Bleeker's Gage,
Coe's Golden Drop,
Green Gage,
Jefferson,
Lawrence's Favorite,
Lombard,
McLaughlin,
Monroe,
Purple Favorite,
Prince's Yellow Gage,
Purple Gage,
Reine Claude de Bavay,
Smith's Orleans,
Washington,

PLUMS THAT PROMISE WELL.

Bradshaw,
Duane's Purple,
Fellenberg,
General Hand,
German Prune,
Ives Washington Seedling.
Pond's Seedling,
Rivers' Favorite,
St. Martin's Quetche,
White Damson,

CHERRIES FOR GENERAL CULTIVATION.

Belle d'Orleans,
Belle Magnifique,
Black Eagle,
Black Tartarian,
Coe's Transparent;
Downer's Late,
Early Purple Guigne,
Early Richmond (for cooking.)
Elton,
Graffion or Bigarreau'
Knight's Early Black'
May Duke,
Reine Hortense,

CHERRIES PROMISING WELL.

American Amber, Bigarreau Monstreuse de Mezel, Black Hawk, Great Bigarreau of Downing, Hovey, Kirtland's Mary, Napoleon Bigarreau(for special cultviation) Ohio Beauty, Rockport Bigarreau, Walchs' Seedling,

CURRANTS FOR GENERAL CULTIVATION.

Black Naples, May's Victoria. Red Dutch. White Dutch, White Grape,

CURRANTS PROMISING WELL.

*Cherry, *Fertile de Pallua. *Versaillaise,

BLACKBERRIES *For General Cultivation.*

New Rochelle, Dorchester.

RASPBERRIES *For General Cultivation.*

Brinckle's Orange, Fastolf, French, Franconia, Knevet's Giant, Red Antwerp, Yellow Antwerp,

Raspberries Promising Well.

American Red, *Allen, Cope, Catawissa Thunderer, Walker,

STRAWBERRIES *For General Cultivation.*

Boston Pine (in hills), *Hooker's Seedling, Hovey's Seedling, Large Early Scarlet, *Longworth's Prolific *Wilson's Albany.

Strawberries Promising Well.

Genesee, La Baron, McAvoy's Superior, Scarlet Magnate, Walker's Seedling, *Triomphe de Grand.

GRAPES *For General Cultivation.*

OPEN CULTURE.

Catawba, *Concord, *Delaware, Diana, Isabella,

UNDER GLASS.

Black Hamburg, Black Frontignan, Black Prince, Chasselas de Fontinbleau, Grizzly Frontignan, White Frontignan, White Muscat of Alexandria.

Grapes Promising Well, (open culture).

*Hartford Prolific, *Logan, Rebecca, *Union Village.

GOOSEBERRIES *For General Cultivation.*

Crown Bob, Early Sulphur, Green Gage, Houghton's Seedling, Woodward's White Smith, Iron Monger, Laurel, Red Champagne, Walnut, Warrington,

APRICOTS *For General Cultivation,*

Breda, Large Early, Moorpark

NECTARINES *For General Cultivation.*

Downton, Early Violet, Elruge.

A New Grape---Von Vleck's Muscat Catawba.

The introduction of a number of new valuable seedling grapes, surpassing in quality and hardiness the old standard sorts—the Isabella and Catawba, and some of them ripening several days earlier than either of these, have called forth increased attention from fruit growers throughout the country, creating a demand for vines of these new sorts, at almost fabulous prices. These facts have led certain unprincipled venders to send off spurious plants under the name of some of the popular kinds now in great demand, and it would not be strange if the public were imposed upon by the announcement of some new variety claiming excellence superior to any of the new kinds already introduced.

Recently a circular has been sent to a large number of prominent horticulturists in different parts of the country describing a new seedling grape, the result of a "cross of the famous Muscat of Alexandria with the Catawba," embracing every desirable quality found in any grape, and qualties claimed by none now known in our country.

The advertiser remarks that:—"aside from the money I shall make from my new grape. I have an indescribable happiness in being the originator of a product that is of national importance."

In regard to the price he further adds:—"The price first determined upon was $10 per plant, but at the suggestion of several gentlemen, I have determined to sell for $2, per plant, *terms cash with the order.*"

This circular is signed Frederick Von Vleck, New York, N. Y., and a certificate endorsing the fruit and quality of the wine made from it. also signed by S. H. Minturn & J. P. Preston.

During the sitting of the American Pomological Society in New York, several enquiries were made whether any one present could give any information respecting this new grape. Many had received the circulars and had read advertisements of it in the papers, but knew nothing further respecting it, neither could the names of either of the persons be found in the City Directory. The collection of fruits exhibited at this meettng embraced all the new varieties known in the eastern section of the country, together with a number of seedlings of Dr. Grant and others.

Now, if there had been such a man as Frederick Von Vleck who had produced a grape possessing the rare qualities set forth in the circular and had he only exhibited a few bunch-

es of the grapes and a bottle of the superior wine made from it, he could readily have sold the 4,000 vines mentioned and at prices over $2 each, and saved a vast amount of advertising.

There may be men known by the names given, and there may be a new grape, but it is a little singular that no one can be found who knows any thing of either. The whole tenor of the advertisement and all the circumstances connected with it tend to show that it is a fraud, and we deem it due to our readers to set forth what we know of it.

An advertisement of the same character was sent to us for insertion in the Valley Farmer, which we refused to publish.

Another circular has appeared from Philadephia announcing a new strawberry under the name of *Felton's Improved Albany Seedling.* If further testimony were required to establish the fact that Wilson's Albany Strawberry is the very best variety known, we have it in the universal expression of its superior excellence by almost every cultivator who has tested its qualities in every quarter of the United States, the present season. It is only within the last two seasons—considerably less than two years, that the character of Wilson's Albany has been generally known to the horticultural public and it seems rather premature to offer a seedling from it that is destined so far to eclipse the superior qualities of its parent.

We are rejoiced to meet with improved seedlings of any kind of fruit, and regard it a pleasure to give such publicity to them as shall tend to their widest dissemination, yet we deem it equally a duty to caution the public against imposition.

[For the Valley Farmer.]

A WORD ABOUT GRAPES.

Messrs. Editors: Thinking a report of how our grape crop turned out this very unfavorable season, might not be uninteresting to your readers, I give you in a few words what the returns will be, as near as can be ascertained.

Our crop, take it all through, will be about equal to one-fourth of last year's, or about 24,000 gallons. Some vineyards have given a fair crop—others a poor one—but even the poorest have paid for the labor, and have even paid *well.* This is very encouraging, as it is hardly possible that a worse season than this could be imagined. Wherever Norton's Virginia Seedling and Lenoir are grown more extensively, they have again produced a full crop, thus showing the superiority of these kinds over the Catawba. The must of all is of excellent quality, and will make excellent wine.

The Concord, however, promises to be one of the most valuable grapes we have tried, so far. The few bunches I had on a small vine which bore for the first time, although laying on the ground, have withstood everything, and ripened every berry they produced. The grape promises to be a very abundant bearer, is early—two weeks before the Isabella—an excellent table grape, and a large, fine berry and bunch; said to make good wine, and so hardy that it will withstand everything. It is not in the least affected by mildew or rot, and its leaves are as uninjured yet, as they were last summer, although all the wood is ripe. Its earliness and fine size and sweetness will make it a most valuable market fruit, and it ought to have a place in every garden. The berry is larger than the Catawba.

We are going to try, in our climate, the Rebecca, Delaware, Canadian Chief, Emily, Brinkle, Raabe, Graham, Perkins, Union Village, Massachusetts White, Diana, Muscat, Catawba, Clara, and several others called the best yet cultivated. In due time you will hear from us how they succeed.

Yours truly, George Hussmann,
Herman, Mo., Oct. 1858.

[Written for the Valley Farmer.]

GARDENING OPERATIONS FOR NOVEMBER.

BY CAREW SANDERS.

VEGETABLE GARDEN.

The vegetable crop for the present year, has by this time, been made or unmade, according as it has been ill or well attended to. Of course we refer to late vegetables, chiefly. If you have been fortunate to get a good supply, the next thing to be done is to preserve them in the best manner for market or for use.

Keeping Cabbages in Winter.—Cabbage, next to the potato, is one of the great vegetable staples, and some pains should be taken to preserve them sound and fresh, and have them accessible all the winter. For this purpose, select a dry spot, and open a trench with spade or plow. Dig up the cabbages and stand them on their heads where they grew. Let them stand a day or two. This will drain all the water from the heads, and wilt down the large, outside leaves, and render them less liable to injury from fermentation when packed closely together. Plant them thickly in a sloping direction against this trench or bank, and then throw up soil nearly to the lower leaves, and plant another row, setting their heads as close together as they will stand. You may plant 3, 4, or 5 such rows, of any length you require to take your crop. Then form a sort of roof over them by driving a fork into the ground at each end, and lay a pole or rail through these forks to form a ridge pole, about a foot or so above them. Then lay pieces of old boards, brush or corn stalks, one end resting on the pole and the other on the ground; a thick coating of straw over this, or a less coating of straw and a layer of earth, patted down and made smooth to turn off rain, will be sufficient. The ends may be kept open except in very severe weather, when they may be stopped up with straw. The above plan is well adapted for those that have not headed in hard and solid. They will here grow and harden during the winter. Those heads that are quite solid will keep sufficiently well laid head downwards and covered with earth. Care should be used to run an open drain around those that are kept in this way.

Keeping Sweet Potatoes.—This is often found

a difficult vegetable to keep through the winter. We copy the following from the *Germantown* (Pa.) *Telegraph*, and regard it as an excellent method:

"The best plan we have ever tried to keep sweet potatoes for family use, is to pack them in layers in good boxes of dry sand—dried, if necessary, on the kitchen floor. This will absorb the moisture from the roots and preserve them sound until early summer vegetables can be produced. A layer of dry sand and a layer of potatoes on that, with sand strewed among them; then another layer of sand supporting another layer of potatoes as before. The whole to be kept in a dry place."

To Preserve Celery.—We have tried many ways, both in the cellar and out of doors, and have found the following plan to be the best: Form a raised, sloping bank, as for cabbage, and above the general surface; lay the plants against this bank in their upright position, as thick as they can lay without touching. Cover all up with soil, and add another row, and so on to the width of a yard or two if you have the plants. Then cover all over thickly with soil, drawing it up to a long, pointed ridge, with an open ditch all around to run off water. Over the whole throw a thick coating of dry leaves, with a little brush or straw to keep the leaves on. You can get at this at any time, and we have had it keep perfectly in this way till spring.

FRUIT GARDEN.

All the hardy kinds of fruit may now be planted out. Prepare the ground thoroughly and well for the orchard and fruit garden, and rather than plant without a good preparation, better heel-in the tree or plant, until spring and take time to prepare well for it.

Manuring, plowing, trenching and otherwise preparing the ground for spring planting, may very properly and profitably engage the attention of the planter at this time

By the end of the month, or just before severe weather sets in, the strawberry bed should have a covering of straw or half decayed leaves placed on it. Raspberries may be laid down and covered with soil, but we advise laying them as high and in as much of a ridge as possible, to keep the soil surrounding them dry and prevent the bark turning black and rotting, as it will sometimes do in retentive soils. Even the hardiest raspberry, when protected, doubtless fruits much better than when no protection is given. The pithy nature of its wood and the prominence of its buds, render it peculiarly liable to injury from the drying effects of the cold winds and alternate thawing and freezing. Stake and mulch all newly planted trees, to prevent the wind from rocking them about and making a hole, whereby the water gets in and freezes and injures the roots, and also to assist in preventing the heaving out by frost, that all fall planted trees are subject to.

FLOWER GARDEN AND LAWN.

Now that the season of flowers is over and the garden is assuming a bare and cheerless aspect, with a little labor and attention it can be made attractive and agreeable, even during the dreary months of winter.

Take up dahlias or any other tender bulbous or herbaceous plants that may yet remain in the grounds. Dry the dahlia tubers for a few days in the sun; label them by name, or by their colors, and pack in dry sand in a box or barrel, and place out of reach of frost.

Rooted layers of Verbenas may be taken up and potted, and kept in a cold frame. They may be tolerably easy wintered thus, along with violets, daisies, crysanthemums and other half-hardy plants.

Care of Roses.—Tender kinds will need some protection. Dry straw or leaves are the best material for this purpose. Draw the tops of the plants together and tie them in several places with a string; then place straight rye straw around and bind in a conical form, or if they stand in a bed, a foot thick of dry leaves may be placed all over the bed and around the plants, with some heavier material to keep them from blowing away. This will most effectually protect the most tender roses. The tops may get killed, but the roots and lower part of the stem will be uninjured, and when cut down to the live wood they will grow up and bloom as well as ever. This is a much safer method of protection than laying the tops down and covering them with soil, where the latter is heavy and tenacious of moisture. The cold and dampness constantly surrounding the tops, are apt to rot the bark, and indeed to kill the plants you intend to protect. Hybrid perpetual, climbing, and garden or annual roses will need no other protection than a coat of rotted manure laid about their roots, to be forked in in the spring. After all the tender plants have been removed and cared for that require it, and others have been protected where they stand, then put your garden in winter order. Clear off and store away dahlia and other stakes, remove to the rubbish heaps all decaying stems, tops of plants and leaves, that will otherwise lay around and look unsightly. Edge all around the beds, borders and walks with a spade or edging iron, to cut off the grass, &c., that may have grown over either. This, by defining the edges and giving a clear outline to the whole garden, will of itself add vastly to the good appearance of the place.

Rake the leaves from the grass, and place in a heap in some out-of-the-way corner, remove all branches or litter of any kind, then the beds and borders may be roughly but neatly dug over to lay for winter, and finish off by putting the walks in order, hoe off the weeds and rake smoothly and neatly. When a garden is put in proper order as above, the straw and litter used for protection will not look unsightly, because it will at once be seen that it was placed there for an object. If a bed has to be protected, cover all over evenly, and finish off at the edges; then it will look like just what it is, and no one will mistake it for a manure or rubbish heap. In dry weather, a walk through the garden, even in winter, will be pleasant and agreeable to what it would be had it been left uncared for after the flowers of summer had come and gone.

The Home Circle.

AUTUMN.

Autumn days have come again, and while we write they are soft as balmy spring. Though autumn is, to many, a gloomy season, it has ever seemed to us a rich and joyous one. We count it not as the foreboder of dark days, of snow and sleet and storm, of decay and death and the solemn drapery of winter. To us it is the fulfillment of vernal promises and summer hope. It is the fruition season of the year. It is the pay-day for the season's toil. It is the consummation of all the great labors of the previous months. It is the time when men have especial occasion for thankfulness to the Giver of every good and perfect gift, for crowning their toils with success. It is the season for Thanksgiving-day so precious in the eyes of all devout people and all severed families. How many rejoice in the return of this blessed day of praise which brings home the wanderers from the festive board of the family and reunites them in its social feast. Autumn is the season for determining our successes and counting over our victories. It is the dawn of a day of rest. And it is the symbol of the ripeness of life, when the best wisdom and judgment have well matured; of manhood's noble prime when the gathered experience of a life enriches the mind and heart. The autumn of life ought to be its best season; ought to enrich it with the best wisdom and love and joy; ought to crown it with the best successes and achievements the mind is capable of gaining. We should so live that our autumn should be golden with the ripe fruitage of a well-spent year of life.

FOR HUSBANDS.

It is the practice of most writers to pen homilies for wives. Wives have been lectured these many years, and none too much, about their duties, while it has seemed scarcely to have entered many minds that husbands have any duties. We have below a short lecture for husbands, given in a good spirit and worthy of every husband's perusal. We hope the wives that read it will pass it over to their husbands:

How to Make Home Happy.

Do not jest with your wife upon a subject in which there is danger of wounding her feelings. Remember that she treasures every word you utter, though you never think of it again. Do not speak of some virtue in another man's wife, to remind your own of a fault. Do not reproach your wife with personal defects, for if she has sensibility you inflict a wound difficult to heal. Do not treat your wife with inattention in company. Do not upbraid her in the presence of a third person, nor entertain her with praising the beauty and accomplishments of other women. If you would have a pleasant home and cheerful wife, pass your evenings under your own roof. Do not be stern and silent in your own house, and remarkable for sociability elsewhere. Remember that your wife has as much need of recreation as yourself, and devote a portion, at least, of your leisure hours to such society and amusements as she may join. By so doing, you will secure her smiles and increase her affection. Do not, by being too exact in pecuniary matters, make your wife feel her dependence upon your bounty. It tends to lessen her dignity of character and does not increase her esteem for you. If she is a sensible woman, she should be acquainted with your business and know your income, that she may regulate her household expenses accordingly. Do not withhold this knowledge in order to cover your own extravagance. Women have a keen perception—be sure she will discover your selfishness and tho' no word is spoken, from that moment her respect is lessened, and her confidence diminished, pride wounded, and a thousand, perhaps, unjust suspicions created. From that moment is your domestic comfort on the wane. There can be no oneness, where there is no full confidence.

NOT TOO FAST.

Hold on, two-and forty young man? not too fast. Yours is a giddy drive and may drive you into places you will not like. It may drive you into debt, vice, crime and the prison. Better hold on before it is too late. Hold on to your appetite, or before you are aware of danger it will have hurried you into intemperance and its brutal licentiousness and degradation. Hold on to the social glass, and let it not touch your lips. It hath madness in it and simpering idiocy, and poverty and social contempt. In its dregs are the seeds of vice and crime. Hold on to your tongue that it profane not the name of God and desecrate not the best and holiest things; that it shall not vilify your mother's sex, nor insinuate evil of your sister's kind; that it shall not descend to vulgarity nor obscenity, nor clatter with the flippant license of prating fops and fools. Hold on to your purse or you will be bankrupt ere you have learned

to earn your own bread. Your purse is your friend, waste not its contents. Learn economy and the use of money and the value of labor. Hold on to your passions, that they lead you not into disputes and riots and brawls and the contempt of friends and the censure of neighbors. Hold on to your self-conceit, that you grow not too fast nor over estimate your worth and talent. Hold on to your ambition, that it vitiate not your motives, nor corrupt your heart. Watch well your ways.

THE BEST WEALTH.

The great struggle with civilized men in this world is for wealth. This is called the prime good, the one thing needful, the great desideratum of life. So men toil for it; sacrifice ease comfort, health for it; deceive, cheat, defraud for it; give time, strength, and too often good character for it. The truth is, the estimate put upon wealth is too high. Its value, its good is over-rtated. It is not the great good. It is not the pearl of great price. It is not the best thing man can have. It does not confer peace of mind, nor purity of heart, heartfelt happiness nor contentment, nor home-joy, nor social blessedness, nor any of the solid and enduring enjoyments.

Wealthy homes are not often happier than those of the poor and comfortable livers. Poverty is always an evil; but a fair supply of the necessaries and comforts of life is quite as apt to confer real peace, as great wealth. It is not gold nor goods, therefore, that make men really wealthy. The best wealth is of the heart, an enlightened mind, a loyal conscience, pure affections. He is wealthiest who has the largest stock of wisdom, virtue and love—whose heart beats with warm sympathies for his fellow men, who finds good in all seasons, all providences, and all men. The generous man who pities the unfortunate; the pure man who resists temptation; the wise man who orders well his life; the loving man who clings closely to his family and friends: the studious man who seeks instruction in all things, are the truly wealthy men.

Co-operation of the wife.—There is much good sense and truth in the remark of a modern author, that no man ever prospered in the world without the co-operation of his wife. If she unites in mutual endeavors, or rewards his labor with an endearing smile, with what confidence will he resort to his merchandise or his farm, fly over lands, sail upon the seas, meet difficulty or encounter danger, if he knows he is not spending his strength in vain, but that his labor will be rewarded by the sweets of home.

The Young Folks' Page.

COMETS.

The beautiful comet which has been visible for the last two months, has probably been seen by many of our young readers, who have never before witnessed one of equal magnitude and brilliancy, and it has no doubt excited their wonder and admiration, and led to the desire to know something more about these strange celestial visitants. We have therefore thought that a short chapter on comets might be interesting to them.

We have recorded accounts of many remarkable comets, which have appeared from a period of more than two thousand years before the Christian Era to the present time. They have ever been regarded by the ignorant and superstitious as harbingers of evil; but in the present enlightened condition of the world every fear of harm from these members of the solar system should be banished from the minds of the children of men.

Comets are members of the solar system and are governed by the same laws that control the motions of the other planetary bodies that revolve around the sun, yet unlike the planets, they appear in every region of the heavens, and move in every possible direction. Comets revolve in orbits extremely elliptical, often passing between the orbits of some of the nearest planets and the sun, and then fly off into the immensity of space, frequently beyond the remotest confines of the solar system, some never returning and others reappear at periods varying from three years to hundreds of years.—Since the nature of their movements has been understood, the periodic revolutions of more than one hundred different comets have been calculated with a considerable degree of certainty. They are composed of nebulous matter of extreme lightness, even less dense than the clouds and vapor that surrounds the earth, and hence no possible harm could result to us from a collision with the earth, even were we not assured that such an event is wholly inconsistent with the character and perfection of the works of the great Architect of the Universe who has set its wonderful machinery in motion.

Comets have no visible disk like the planets, and shine with a faint light accompanied with a train, or tail always turned from the sun.—What constitutes the tail of comets has been a matter of much speculation among astronomers.

Some suppose it to be the light of the sun transmitted through the nucleus of the comet. Kepler thought that the impulsion of the solar rays drove away the denser part of the comet's atmosphere and thus formed a tail. Descartes ascribed the tail to the refraction of light by the nucleus. Newton maintained that it is a thin vapor raised by the heat of the sun from the comet. But of what material this appendage may be composed is quite unknown, yet one fact is certain, it must be of an extremely light, transparent character, for through the denser portions of the tails as well as thro' the head or body of some of the comets themselves, stars have been distinctly seen with the aid of the telescope. The idea might be advanced and not an irrational one, that these bodies floating even in the remotest confines of the sun's atmosphere, the most etherial of all things. except the comets themselves, the vapor of which they are composed is floated upwards by its superior density, as a balloon is floated in the atmosphere of the earth, thus causing the appearance of its tail as seen by us.

We might allude to some of the most remarkable comets that have appeared within the last two thousand years, but our space will admit of our speaking of but a few that have visited us in modern times.

In 1770 a large comet appeared and was visible for the space of five months. M. Lexell, of St. Petersburg and other distinguished astronomers calculated its elements and found that in its revolution around the sun it never passed beyond the orbit of Saturn, and that its periodic revolution was but five and a half years, but from some unexplained cause it has never returned. The great comet of 1811 was the most remarkable one of our time, on account of the great breadth of its tail. It was visible for the space of seventeen months. Its length was estimated at 132,000,000 of miles. In 1843 a comet was visible for a short time; its tail spread from the horizon to near the zenith and its estimated length was 50,000,000 of miles.—Since the beginning of the year 1858 no less than seven comets have been visible to the inhabitants of the earth; and what is a rare occurrence, there are three visible at the present time. Two of these were discovered by Mr. Bond, of the Observatory at Cambridge, and may be seen only with the aid of the telescope. One is the well-known comet of Encke, whose periodic return is calculated with great certainty about once in every three years. The other, it is thought possible, may be the famous comet of Charles V., whose periodic revolution occupies about three hundred years, but owing to the great distance it travels into boundless space beyond the limits of our system, and the influence of bodies it may meet with to retard its movements, its return is not calculated with the same certainty of some others whose periodic revolution is made in less time. It was the return of this great comet which was predicted and published to the world last year by some silly individuals, as likely to cause the destruction of the world by a colllsion with it. The failure of this prediction, like thousands of others made in the darkened ages of the world, should remove forever all fear from the minds of men of the possibility of such a catastrophe.

The beautiful comet which has been so long visible and has prompted our present remarks, was discovered on the second of June, by Prof. Donati, of Florence, Italy, whose name it bears. Its apparent slow motion is owing to its great distance from us, and its direction of motion with respect to the earth. Its motion is retrograde, or contrary to the movement of the planets around the sun.

It passed its perhelion (that point nearest the sun) about the ninth of October, at a distance of about 52,000,000 of miles from the sun; it then traveled through space at the rate of 150,000 miles an hour. At the time we write (Oct. 11,) the comet is approaching the plane of the orbit of Venus, at a point near the orbit itself, and Venus and the comet are both approaching this point. Venus will pass it first by about eight days, which will afford ample scope to prevent any perceptible influence upon the motions of either; but even should they pass at a point much nearer each other than this, owing to the extremely frail nature of the matter composing the comet, no perceptible influence could be exerted upon the motions of the planet, while the path of the comet might be slightly varied by the attraction of the planet. This has been demonstrated by the fact that once a large comet was known to pass directly through the orbits of the little sattelites of Jupeter, but they were in no way affected, while the comet was retarded in its speedy flight a few days.

There was never a ray of starlight in the Mammoth Cave of Kentucky; only the red glare of torches ever lit its walls. So there are many men whose minds are Mammoth Caves, all underground and unenlightened, save by the torches of selfishness and passion.

Editor's Table.

GREAT INDUCEMENTS!!

$550 IN PREMIUMS!

THE VALLEY FARMER for 1859!

The Valley Farmer will commence its ELEVENTH YEAR AND VOLUME on the first of January, 1859. We hope to make the New Volume more valuable than any of its predecessors have been, although it affords us pleasure to state that, so far as we have heard, it has given the utmost satisfaction to its thousands of readers. The friends of the FARMER (and we know it has its thousands of true, earnest friends) may rest assured that neither labor or money shall be spared to render it the most PRACTICAL, RELIABLE and VALUABLE Agricultural Journal published, particularly for the Western Farmer—to whose interests it is especially devoted.

In order to greatly increase the number of our subscribers for the New Volume, we have determined to offer the following SPLENDID PREMIUMS to those friends who will interest themselves in obtaining and sending the largest number of subscribers, so that they may be received by us before the 1st of April, 1859. Our subscribers will agree with us that they are premiums worth contending for. No traveling agent will be allowed to compete for these premiums. We have none employed at the present time.

THE PREMIUMS.

To the person sending us the Largest number of Subscribers, we will give one of

Manny's Combined Reapers & Mowers,

Manufactured by Messrs. Kingslands and Ferguson, of St. Louis, and worth One Hundred and Fifty Dollars.

This machine received the first premium (the Grand Gold Medal of Honor) for being the best Combined Machine, at the great National Trial of Reapers and Mowers, held at Syracuse, N. Y., in 1857.

To the person sending the Second largest list, we will give one of

Singer's Unrivalled Sewing Machines,

(Edwin Dean, Agent, St. Louis,) worth One Hundred and Forty-five Dollars. It received the first premium at the great World's Fair, held at Paris, France; first premium at the 2d annual Fair of the St. Louis Agricultural and Mechanical Association, and numerous other premiums.

To the person sending the Third Largest list, we will give one of

Coleman's Farm Mills,

Manufactured by L. P. Littlefield, of St. Louis, Mo., with Seive arranged for sifting Corn Meal, while grinding, and with Bolting machine attached for making family flour. Value, One Hundred Dollars. This Mill was patented June 23d 1857. It received the Silver Medal at the Metropolitan Mechanics Fair, at Washington, D. C., in March last, and has taken numerous other premiums.

To the person sending the Fourth largest list, we will give one of

Moore's Grain and Seed Drills,

Manufactured by Messrs. Elam & Littlefield, St. Louis, Mo., and worth Eighty Dollars. This Drill received the first premium at the Fair of the United States Agricultural Society, held at Louisville, Ky., last year; first premium at the late fair at St. Louis, and numerous other first premiums.

To the person sending us the Fifth largest list, we will give

Cuming's Patent Combined Hay, Straw and Corn Stalk Cutter and Crusher,

Manufactured by G. B. Griffin and Peter & Buchanan, Louisville, Kentucky, and worth Thirty-five Dollars. This useful Machine received the first premium at the late fair of the St. Louis Agr. and Mech. Assoc., also the Grand Gold Medal of Honor, for being the most important invention patented, for farmers, within the past three years. It has also received a large number of first premiums at different State fairs.

To the person sending the Sixth largest list, we will give a

Double or Michigan Sub-Soil Plow,

Manufactured by John Deere & Co., Moline, Illinois, (Jno Garnett & Co., St. Louis, Agents,) worth Thirty Dollars. This Plow was tried at the grand Field Trial of Implements, held by the St. Louis Agr. and Mech. Association, where it received the first premium. The Grand Gold Medal of Honor was likewise awarded to it, because, in the opinion of the Committee, it "would accomplish the most thorough disintegration of the soil with the greatest economy of labor, time and money."

To the person sending the Seventh largest list, we will give

Agricultural Books

to the value of Ten Dollars, to be selected from the catalogue of A. O. Moore, Agricultural Book Publisher, New York.

The Premiums will be delivered to the successful parties at St. Louis, Mo., free of any charge whatever. Persons from any State can compete for the premiums. Those who form clubs need not wait till the whole list is completed before sending in the names, as they can continue to add to the list, at any time, up to April 1st., at which time they will be counted.

The money should accompany the names as they are forwarded.

TERMS FOR 1859—INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.

Single Copy, One Year.....$1 00
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And One Copy, one year, free, to any one sending Fifteen subscribers at 80 cents each.

Additions to clubs, at club rates, can be made at any time, and at different Post Offices.

Specimen numbers and Prospectus sent to all who signify their intention to compete for the Premiums.

NOW IS THE TIME TO SUBSCRIBE.

As an inducement to new subscribers to begin now, we will send the December No. of the present volume to all new names received before mailing that number.

LAID OVER.—A communication from R. H. Creel, of Mo., containing several inquiries, is unavoidably crowded out this number. He will find the best method of keeping sweet potatoes over winter, in the valuable article by Mr. Sanders, on Gardening Operations for November. The other inquiries will be answered hereafter.

CORRECTION.—The first four lines at the top of page 332 (present number) were put there by mistake of the printer, after the proof had been read and corrected. They belong to the top of page 334.

Fair of the Central District (Mo.,) Agricultural Society.

The annual exhibition of the above society was held at Boonville, commencing on Monday the 4th of October and continuing five days. We believe the number of entries of articles for premiums was larger than at any previous exhibition of the society, but on account of the unfavorable weather during the first three days of the fair, the number of persons in attendance was hardly as large as usual; during the last two days, however, the attendance was large. The Directors and officers of the Association labored indefatigably, not only during the fair, but for a long time previous to it, to have a splendid exhibition. It is true they had obstacles and great obstacles to overcome, in order to have a successful fair. As the Society was organized, a person became a member for one year on the payment of $5. But on the expiration of the year there were no members, and the Directors were compelled to canvass again for new members, or have no fair. And so, each year the same labor had to be done over—making it constantly an "up-hill business." But we are gratified to state, that on the 5th day of the fair the sense of the members was taken, and they voted almost unanimously for changing their society into a joint stock association. Directers were elected favorable to this change, and a society was at once formed on the new basis. We predict a bright future for the fairs of this society. All of the most successful agricultural societies are formed on the joint stock principle. The shares of this society are $25, and the object is to have them distributed as widely throughout the district as possible, so as to have stockholders using their influence for the benefit of the society in which they are pecuniarily interested.

It is the intention of the new Directory to greatly improve their grounds, erect a fine, covered amphitheatre to protect visitors from the storms; to offer larger premiums, and in short, to make the Central District Fair one of the finest in the State. We wish them success in their laudable efforts.

It would afford us great pleasure to give a full report or the many excellent articles that we saw on exhibition—but our columns are already crowded and we are compelled to be very brief.

The Ladies Department of the exhibition was highly creditable. There was a most spirited competition between the fair daughters of Cooper for the tempting premiums, and, in many cases, the articles were of such superior merit that it was difficult to decide which were entitled to the premiums. Mrs. Andrew Gibson exhibited butter that would compare favorably with the best Goshen ever made. Mrs. C. B. Combs, and others also exhibited butter of superior merit. Mrs. John Porter exhibited a splendid collection of Dahlias; Miss Ada Spahr, a charming boquet, and there were scores of other fascinating articles exhibited. Among these were beautiful quilts of all kinds—window curtains, &c., &c.

Mr. Richard Gentry, of Pettis county, exhibited seven specimens of Jeans, of home manufacture, all of superior merit—also several pair of woolen blankets that would be exceedingly comfortable during the cold winter nights that are approaching.

Our friend, Charles McCormick, had some splendid fat sheep of the Cotswold breed on exhibition. We have no doubt they would nett 170 lbs. each. He is fattening 200 head and thinks of sending them to New York city, and we believe he will be well paid for doing it. Mason Brown, of Saline Co., had some very superior Cotswold sheep on exhibition. We understand he has been taking the premiums with them at numerous fairs the present fall.

The number of cattle exhibited was not large, on account of the prevalence of the Texas fever, which has committed sad ravages among the cattle of Cooper and other counties the past summer. But some very superior cattle were on exhibition. Gus. Elgin Esq., of Howard, and Harvey Lamme, of Boone, exhibited their splendid Short Horn bull, "Town Fork Senator." He was two years and ten months old and as fine an animal of his age as we ever saw. If he don't bear off a host of first premiums yet we shall be mistaken.

Messrs. Joseph Stapleton, N. W. Wilson, J. Estes, Eli P. Adams, Col. J. A. Quarles, W. H. Curtwright, Hutchisson & Clarke, John Miller, H. E. Moore, J. R. Estell, N. Leonard and others, exhibited cattle of superior merit.

The show of jacks and jennets was fine. The ring of blooded stallions was hard to beat—but we did not learn which received the premium, as we left for St. Louis before the judges made their award. The splendid Morgan stallion, "Flying Cloud," owned by Mr. June Williams, of Howard, was exhibited after we left. He is considered by judges to be one of the best Morgan stallions in the West—if not in the Union.

On the Fifth day of the Fair, as we have before stated, the Society, by a vote of the members, was changed into a joint stock association, and the following gentlemen were chosen officers for the ensuing year.

Isaac Lionberger, President; Chas. H. Smith, Treasurer; Jo. L. Stephens, Secretary; Vice Presidents, B. C. Clark, of Cooper; W. Tutt, of Morgan; F. W. Hickox, of Moniteau; W. H. Bowman, of Howard; John Miller, of Howard; E. N. Warfield, of Cooper; M. P. Leintz, of Boone; Wm. Gentry, of Pettis; Presley Sawyer, of Saline.

To the officers of the old board we return our sincere thanks for the many kind attentions we received from them. Our visit was an exceedingly pleasant one. We enjoyed the hospitality during our stay of Dr. Wm. H. Trigg, the efficient Treasurer of the Society, Andrew Gibson and H. M. Myers.

Fair of the Kentucky State Agricultural Society.—The fair of the State Agricultural Society, held at Louisville, which closed Saturday the 3d of October, proved to be a very successful one. The proceedings between the officers of the State society and those of the South-western Agricultural and Mechanical Association on whose grounds the fair was held, were altogether more harmonious than occurred last year with the officers of the United States Agricultural society, at their late fair at the same place. We are glad of this. The receipts for the week were quite satisfactory, amounting to about $9,000. The State Society is now established, we trust, upon a permanent basis, and may result in great good to the agriculture of the State.

Fair at New Albany, Ind.

We had the pleasure of visiting the Fair held at the above place which commenced on the 18th of October and continued during the week. The Fair Grounds embrace sixty acres of land, admirably adapted for the purpose, which have been surrounded by a substantial plank fence. A most excellent track just one mile in length, has been made for the purpose of testing the speed of horses by the watch—no racing being allowed. Good buildings have been erected for the display of articles—a fine ring made for the exhibition of stock—good stalls built, and indeed the most excellent arrangements have been made for the accommodation of exhibitors and visitors.

The officers and friends of the association deserve great credit for the indefatigable exertions they have used in raising the funds to purchase and improve their grounds and for the very complete arrangements they have perfected. The exhibition was quite a successful one, and we regret that we have not space, this month, to notice many of the articles exhibited in detail.

The President, Thos. H. Collins, Esq., and the Secretary, Col. W. W. Tuley, will receive our thanks for polite attentions shown us.

To HORT HORN BREEDERS.—In our next number we will publish the circular of Lewis F. Allen, Editor of the American Herd Book, who is preparing to issue the Fourth Volume of that work. Mr. Allen's post office address is Black Rock, New York, where our breeders can send their pedigrees or send for circulars.

FLOWERING BULBS.—We are indebted to F. K. PHŒNIX, of Bloomington, Ills., for a splendid collection of flowering bulbs for fall planting. It is not too late for our readers to order some from him. They can be cheaply and expeditiously sent by express. Prepare a nice bed or beds in the lawn and plant them. They will well reward you next spring by the beauty and richness of their flowers.

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Subscribers will please to remember that we invariably stop the **Farmer** *when the advance payment is exhausted. Therefore, all who desire its continuance should send on the money for renewal that they may miss no numbers between the expiration of the old and the commencement of the new subscription. They will then have each volume complete.*

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